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Cover photo: Bill Wakeley, pixels.com; Enders Falls, Granby.

This page: (top) Barker Character, Comic and Cartoon Museum in Cheshire; photo by Peter Hvizdak. (above) an over-the-top milkshake from Cream and Sugar in Bethel; photo by Meg Matyia.

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MEDIA

CEO Steve Rossi

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL Connecticut Magazine® (ISSN 0889-7670), a property of Digital First Media, 101 W. Colfax Ave., 11th Floor, Denver, CO 80202-5177, is published monthly by Connecticut Magazine at 100 Gando Drive, New Haven, CT 06513. Periodicals postage paid at New Haven, Connecticut, and at additional mailing offices. Printed in U.S.A. Subscription rates: One year \$19.97, two years \$34.97, three years \$39.97 in Connecticut; out-of-state residents add \$5/yr. **POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to Connecticut Magazine Subscription Services, P.O. Box 3000, Denville, NJ 07834.**



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| editor's note |

Passion Projects

Have you ever been to Mystic Seaport? How about the Mystic or Norwalk aquariums? One of the casinos? The Bushnell? Hammonasset beach? Gillette Castle? Sleeping Giant? Chances are you said “Of course” to at least a few of these locations. After all, they’re some of the best-known and most-visited sites in Connecticut, and for good reason.

What about the Connecticut Air & Space Center? The American Clock & Watch Museum? Cathedral Pines? The Institute for American Indian Studies? The Kouros Sculpture Center? Hogpen Hill Farms? How about Enders Falls?

I bet those received far fewer “Yes” responses. The fact is, dozens and dozens of remarkable attractions pepper our eight counties. The vast majority of them largely fly under the radar, somewhat lost in the din of the state’s larger, more well-known sites.

We at *Connecticut Magazine* set out to change that with our “Hidden Connecticut” feature, starting on page 42, offering up 30 tucked-away and lesser-known destinations we believe are worthy of more attention.

Besides being a bit off the beaten path, these hidden gems have something else in common: many of them depend heavily on volunteers, donations and devotion to keep them open for all of us to enjoy. The Connecticut Air & Space Center in Stratford, for example, which is dedicated to “preserving the history of Connecticut’s contribution to flight, enhancing aerospace knowledge and encouraging a spirit of discovery,” would be hard pressed to continue its mission without the manpower, time and dollars of passionate people.

Bristol’s American Watch & Clock Museum, with one of the largest collections of American-made timepieces in the world, could not be open seven days a week from April to the end of November without a great deal of support. You can even adopt a clock or watch, should one strike your fancy.

Cathedral Pines, the remains of an old-growth forest in Cornwall, was donated to the Nature Conservancy in 1967 to spare it from loggers’ axes. Despite being ravaged by tornadoes in 1989, the nature preserve endures, allowed to regenerate naturally. Without the conservancy’s protection, and the donors who support the organization, the trees might have been felled long ago.

It’s time to take more notice of these marvels. But don’t forget the people who preserve and promote them. Without their efforts, we wouldn’t have many hidden gems to write about.

Want more passion? Writer Michael Lee-Murphy has a double dose for you. His feature “Our Irish Soul” (page 35) traces the sometimes turbulent history of Irish immigrants to Connecticut, and how, without them, our state wouldn’t be what it is today. And as a lifelong UConn basketball diehard, Lee-Murphy explains why, through good times and bad, his love for the program will never wane. Read his personal story, “Hungry for the Huskies,” starting on page 53.

If your passion is art and the men and women who advance its practice, writer Erik Ofgang has a story for you about an artist who creates jaw-dropping large-scale murals, as well as sculpture, paintings and illustration (“Master of Murals,” page 59).

Sometimes we take our state for granted. I know I’ve been guilty of that. Every once in a while, it’s good to get a reminder of all the wonderful things it offers us.



Albert Yuravich

ayuravich@connecticutmag.com



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Corrections: A story about Tablao restaurant in Norwalk on page 83 of the January issue incorrectly listed Tablao as wheelchair accessible. The phone number for Winvian Farm in Morris is 860-567-9600. A story about romantic restaurants, starting on page 66 of the January issue, incorrectly listed the restaurant’s phone number.



Connecticut Magazine welcomes letters.

Write to Editor, Connecticut Magazine, 100 Gando Drive, New Haven, CT 06513, or email editorial@connecticutmag.com. Please include your name, phone number and address; no anonymous letters will be published. We may edit letters for space reasons or clarity.

| reader letters |

Bridgeport's Star Turn

I enjoyed your article about movies made in Connecticut, but I think you forgot one. Back in the '70s, my parents ran the Lithuanian club in Bridgeport and I remember they received a call from Paul Newman's production company, which wanted to rent their hall for a movie production crew luncheon. The movie was *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, which starred his wife, Joanne Woodward. She won best actress for this role at the 1972 Cannes film festival and was nominated for a Golden Globe for best actress. The movie was supposed to take place in New York, but it was actually shot in Bridgeport. Keep up the good work and we really enjoy the magazine.

Al Baran
Stratford

Mockingbird Director's Connection

No fault of yours, but in your movies feature you did not list or know of Robert Mulligan, Hollywood movie director of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, starring Gregory Peck, and a resident of this state in late life.

Bob (brother of Richard Mulligan of TV's *Soap* and *Empty Nest*) was with me at Fordham University at the original Bronx

campus site circa 1949-51. Both of us, and longtime Dodgers announcer Vin Scully, were staff announcers at Fordham FM radio station WFUV "90.7 on the FM dial."

For years since our 50th class reunion at Fordham U., I tried to find Bob — until about 6-7 years ago I saw his name in the *Hartford Courant's* obituaries column, having just passed away in Lyme. Small world. I did call his wife, identified myself as an alum of Fordham and how I was the lead announcer/radio actor in his first radio script.

For years I always wanted to ask why Bob did not get an Oscar for directing Peck's Oscar-winning performance, until I checked and realized David Lean's multimillion-dollar *Lawrence of Arabia* beat him out!

Raymond J. Squier
Cheshire

Killingworth's Home Cooking

I sometimes wonder if, in the choosing of your different types or kinds of restaurants for your Best Restaurants issue, the judges have a clogged nose or they're under the weather when they make a choice.

In Killingworth we have a modest restaurant called The Copper Skillet. It has been around for at least 20 to 30 years. It is a Greek-run family restaurant on Route 81 between Clinton and the entrance to Route 9.

Important personalities seem to stop at this restaurant. I have seen the camera people in cars from channels 3, 30 and 8 and even public television. They will eat their lunch or supper and move out quickly.

I'm not a connoisseur of expensive restaurants, but home-cooked meals with homemade soup — different every day — is to me a great indicator of how people love this restaurant.

I certainly don't want to make owners of restaurants rich, but I do want to pay a fair price for some excellent food. The Copper Skillet on Route 81 is such a place. There are times every evening that the parking lot is completely filled.

The few restaurants I have visited and paid higher prices at really do not compare to the home-cooked meals that this type of restaurant produces.

Wayne Everett Kensel
Killingworth

Access For 'Foodies on Wheels'

Your review of Tap & Vine in the January issue whetted my appetite and swung my compass needle. So I thought I'd organize a

dining party of some of my wheeler friends to enjoy Hector Samuel's comfort food and his personable wait staff that reviewer Michael Lee-Murphy enjoyed.

But first I called to check out the "single step up." I told a manager that our group uses powerchairs for mobility. These are electric motorized wheelchairs. Mine, with me in it, weighs over 300 pounds. So I asked, "Are you sure your on-hand staff is able to lift my machine and me? If not, do you have a portable ramp?" He explained that there's not enough room for even a portable ramp; the sidewalk is too narrow. (A 4-inch-high step would require a ramp extending out 40 inches — if the ramp is perpendicular to the entrance.)

Let me point out that most businesses that cannot have perpendicular ramp approaches should think outside the box. That is, ramps that run parallel to the entrance are a solution that enables businesses to enjoy economic and marketing benefits from 18 percent of America's population. There are 50 million Americans with disabilities.

I urge your reviewers to check out Derby's Valley Diner, where access to foodies on wheels is provided by a parallel ramp. Inside, too, management provides access space between tables and chairs to allow us to choose any table. And its restrooms are ADA accessible, too — as these things should be. After all, it's been 26 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted.

Joseph A. Luciano
Seymour

Can Opener Still Needs Upgrade

I had to laugh at reading about E.J. Warner's can opener (January's Connecticut Files on how two Connecticut inventors revolutionized the can opener)!

After many, many (and I do mean many, many!) years of dealing with hand-operated, battery-operated, standing electric and wall-mounted electric versions, my feelings are that the world needs a can opener that lives up to its advertising!

More than one of mine have landed on my lawn. What a great feeling when they break apart out there!

Janet Kraemer
Huntington

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first



Generation Protest

Yale University medical students, faculty, administrators and others who support the Protect Our Patients movement demonstrate at Yale's Sterling Hall of Medicine in New Haven in January. The protest focused on the possibility that millions of Americans may lose their health care coverage if the Affordable Care Act is repealed. PHOTO BY PETER HVIZDAK

IN THE WAKE OF TRUMP'S ELECTION, A NEW WAVE OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS RISES ACROSS THE STATE

BY BRITTANY L. STALSBURG

Donald Trump's election and his subsequent actions as president have spawned a wave of political dissent across the U.S. and abroad. The day after Trump's inauguration, millions of women and male allies marched in cities all over the country and the world, protesting Trump's treatment of women and sending the message that women's rights are human rights. After Trump issued an executive order banning refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries, groups of citizens denounced the move in demonstrations outside capitol buildings and at airports across the nation.

Acts of political dissent are happening in Connecticut, too, where the Hartford Women's March drew 10,000 participants and hundreds rallied at Bradley International Airport to protest Trump's travel ban. And while the participants of these protests and marches have included people of all ages, many of them are youthful citizens — millennials and members of the younger Generation Z. In fact, some media outlets are already giving

a new name to these political activists: Generation Protest.

Connecticut members of Generation Protest have a reason to be disaffected — 63 percent of them voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton in November's election, compared to only 30 percent of voters under age 35 who voted for Republican Trump. Many of them say Trump's shocking victory was a "wake-up call" to be more politically active than they might have been previously.

Brenna Doyle, 31, operations coordinator for NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut, says the fear she felt after Trump's election is what motivated her to get more involved with politics. "After the election, I feared for those who would be immediately affected and whose lives would be put in danger by this new regime," the Vernon resident says. "That's what drives me to keep showing up, to stay involved, and to not back down."

Alicia Hernandez Strong, who identifies as black, Latina and Muslim and is a Muslim community organizer, says the people she works with are "scared, very scared." The 20-year-

old activist from New Britain works to educate the Muslim community about political issues. She says that while many Muslims opposed Trump, they were shocked by his travel ban. "I think Trump was very underestimated and people didn't expect him to keep his campaign promises," Strong says. "So it's waking more people up. I have people emailing and messaging me asking how they can support Muslims and resist Trump's policies."

Others say they are resisting Trump's policies because they are antithetical to their core values and what young people today care about. Dorian Lockett, 32, a black man and president of Connecticut Young Democrats, says Trump's refugee ban and his call to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico demonstrate that the president does not reflect Lockett's values. Lockett calls Trump's policies "attacks" on what makes America great. "Trump's attacks on what makes this country great is what has re-energized me; his lack of understanding that our diversity is our strength and by knowing and understanding our neighbors is how we

make our country safer,” the East Hartford resident says.

Thirty-two-year-old State Rep. James Albis, D-East Haven, says he has been struck by the number of young people who have come to him since the election asking how they can get involved in politics. Albis, who is the deputy majority leader of the Connecticut General Assembly, believes much of this inspiration is coming from young people’s sharp disagreement with Trump’s policies and what he stands for: “I think young people want to engage politically right now because they see proposed policies and recent executive orders that are the opposite of what they want — an increasingly connected global society that works together to solve major problems affecting us all, like climate change. The drum of progress is now muted.”

While protests may get the lion’s share of media attention, young people in Connecticut aren’t just holding up signs in the streets. They’re also engaging in what might be thought of as old-fashioned activism, like calling their representatives. Indeed, Christina Cerillo, 27, of Branford, says that since the election, she’s “never called my representatives more in my life!” Cerillo also started a social media-based group called Feminist Connecticut, which aims to be a central location for local news that is specific to women and women’s issues. The group also publicizes feminist events across the state. For Cerillo, part of her activism is rooted in a desire to bring people together. “My main focus with Feminist Connecticut post-election is to make sure that Connecticut’s women and their allies know that they are not alone, and that there are many ways to get involved and stand up and be counted in a political climate that really just wants all dissenters to sit down and shut up,” she says.

Cerillo draws her strength and energy from her connections with other activists fighting for the same causes. “Personally, I find it very comforting to see folks out and protesting, calling, gathering and fighting for our country.”

For some young activists, Trump’s policies have had a very personal effect. Eric Cruz Lopez, 21, of Bridgeport, is an undocumented immigrant who came to the U.S. with his family at age 7 from Oaxaca, Mexico. Lopez is a student at the University of Connecticut, where he studies secondary math education, and hopes to one day teach algebra and geometry at the high school level. Lopez is an organizer for CT Students for a Dream, a group that advocates for the

ALLIES IN ACTIVISM

Here are some of the Connecticut groups making waves in the protest movement:

CT STUDENTS FOR A DREAM

Founded in 2010 by a group of undocumented students and allies from across Connecticut, the group held Connecticut’s first “Undocumented & Unafraid: Coming Out” event in the state, where students shared their stories of being undocumented and came out publicly to their communities. CT Students for a Dream seeks to empower undocumented students and their families by advocating for their rights and raising awareness about the issues they face, including equal access to higher education. ct4adream.org

NARAL PRO-CHOICE CONNECTICUT

The organization’s mission is to mobilize citizens to use the political process to ensure every woman has the right to make personal decisions about reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children and choosing legal abortion. prochoice.org

CONNECTICUT RIGHT TO LIFE CORPORATION

The anti-abortion group’s mission is to “protect life from natural conception until natural death.” CRLC engages in education, providing resources and assistance to pregnant women seeking abortion alternatives. CRLC also works to educate citizens and political leaders about the right to life. connrlc.org

rights and interests of undocumented students in Connecticut. Lopez says Trump’s election has made people like himself realize that his rights are not guaranteed. “This election has activated people who wouldn’t otherwise get involved,” he says. “People who have thought that things were OK are now beginning to realize that our communities are under attack. The blatant attacks on our community have awakened people’s political consciousness.”

While Lopez says he is encouraged so many young people have mobilized against Trump’s policies, he hopes this wave of activism continues long term so that “solid, concrete and sustainable wins” on immigration issues are possible.

Rep. Josh Elliott, 32, D-Hamden, also hopes the wave of activism is here to stay. “I am hopeful that a new generation

of people will become aware that being engaged is not like a week-long diet fad,” he says.

He speculates that Trump’s administration will roll back civil liberties “just enough to get a wave of active participants who will take these next four years as a lesson.”

But not all younger Connecticut residents have been swept up in the anti-Trump wave of resistance. As of this writing, the Connecticut Young Republicans Facebook page had 649 “likes,” which is half the number of the Connecticut Young Democrats, but still shows sizeable support. And Connecticut Right to Life, an anti-abortion advocacy group, reportedly sent five buses to the March for Life event in Washington in late January.

John Waite, president of Connecticut Right to Life, says many of the participants were young. Waite told the *Hartford Courant* that seeing the passion of young people is what inspires him. “Seeing all those kids down there so on fire for this issue, it energizes you for the whole year,” he says.

Other younger Trump supporters don’t feel it’s necessary to attend counter protests and believe Trump won’t be swayed by the demands of the left. For this Trump faithful, the strategy is “wait and see” and hope that Americans will give Trump an opportunity to prove himself before they write him off. A Trump supporter in his early 30s who declined to be named in this article said, “I think that everyone deserves a chance. Trump might be the one thing this country needs to pull itself out of the hole that past presidents have put us in.”

Some could argue that it is not so much Trump’s election, but the characteristics of millennials and Generation Z themselves that have sparked this surge of political activism. In this sense, Trump’s election provided the context for generations already known for their brazen confidence and belief they can solve the world’s problems by figuring out innovative and new solutions. And the ubiquitous use of technology among these generations has also made it easier to connect with each other, communicate and organize.

But perhaps more than anything, it is the unabashed trust in themselves that drives Generation Protest. For Lopez, it is the confidence that he is doing the right thing that makes him fearless. “I want to do this and I will fight for this because I am undocumented, unafraid and unapologetic about my status, my class, my race and my vision,” he says.

After many stops along the way, Nicole and Ryan Briscoe have found a home in Farmington.

SAREN CASSOTTO PHOTOGRAPHY



Life in the Fast Lane

ESPN'S NICOLE BRISCOE AND RACER HUSBAND RYAN BRISCOE ARE CONNECTICUT'S SPORTS POWER COUPLE

BY ERIK OFGANG

As he rounded turn 3, Ryan Briscoe knew he was in trouble. It was 2005, Ryan's first season as an IndyCar driver. He was racing at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Illinois, when he felt his front wheels make contact with the car in front of him. That contact launched Ryan's vehicle into the air, front end up. "I remember seeing blue sky, and I'm not religious, but you're heading for the sky and you know it's going to be bad, and you're like, 'dear God, help me,' and then you just brace for it."

Ryan's car smashed into the track wall, where it tore apart in a fireball of wreckage. Secured in the driver's seat, Ryan was flung like a ping-pong ball across the track. A reporter named Nicole Manske was covering the race that day. She often covered the sport and had previously caught Ryan's eye. "Nicole was the hot local TV girl," he recalls. After the



crash, Ryan went to Italy to recover. When he came back to the U.S. many months later, he and Nicole bumped into each other at an event. She ran up to him and said, "Oh my God, you're alive!"

That chance encounter helped rekindle their friendship. Shortly afterward, they started dating.

They were married in 2009 and Nicole Manske became Nicole Briscoe. Today they live in Farmington with daughters Finley, 3,



and Blake, who was born last summer. Nicole works as a *SportsCenter* anchor for ESPN, and can generally be seen on the night editions at 9 or 11 p.m. or sometimes 1 a.m. Ryan continues to race.

As glamorous as their mutual professions are, when I visit them at their house on a recent afternoon, Nicole and Ryan's family life seems pretty close to ordinary, something the couple has worked hard to ensure. I'm warned to be

quiet because Blake, the baby, is sleeping. Finley is playing in the living room.

In 2014 when the couple had Finley, Nicole was not yet with *SportsCenter*, and covered NASCAR for ESPN, a job that entailed regular travel. "We made the decision that the constant in [Finley's] life would not be the location but the people," Nicole says. She brought Finley with her when she traveled, and whenever possible they would meet up with Ryan on the road. When Nicole was brought on to *SportsCenter* and the couple moved to Connecticut in 2015, scheduling got easier. "My job is never going to be 9 to 5," she says, but her hours have become as regular as she can expect. She works the late shift at ESPN, so the couple needs a nanny. "If I work until 3 a.m. or later, it's not like the daycare facility is open," she says. But Nicole has breakfast with her children each morning and is around for much of the day. Though Ryan still has to travel for his races, he generally leaves for only three or four days at a time. But his schedule is wide open when he's not on the road. "When I'm home, I'm home all day," he says.

Nicole was born in Wisconsin but raised in Roscoe, Illinois. "I don't remember ever wanting to do anything else," she says of what made her want to be a reporter. She adds, "It started with me being a really curious child."

In 1999, while she was still in college at Illinois University, she began her TV career as a general assignment reporter at WREX-TV, the NBC affiliate in Rockford. She also worked as a weekend news and weather anchor and producer. She got the gig after an internship during which she learned as much as possible and made herself as valuable to the newsroom as she could. In 2001 she became a news reporter and fill-in anchor for WANE-TV, the CBS affiliate in Fort Wayne, Indiana, before moving to Indianapolis in 2004 to work for WISH-TV, the CBS affiliate in Indy.

Sports had always been a passion for Nicole, and she began covering the Indianapolis 500, the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Pacers and college basketball. In 2006 she began a two-year stint as the co-host of a motorsports news program on the SPEED Channel. That led to her being hired in 2008 by ESPN. For the next six years before being brought on to *SportsCenter*, she'd work for the sports giant in various capacities related to NASCAR coverage.

Ryan's rise to success in his industry was equally as meteoric. A native of Sidney, Australia, Ryan inherited his fascination with motorsports from his father, who always worked around cars and did some amateur racing. Ryan also

had a love of speed from a young age. "I always loved going fast, whether it was on BMX bikes or skateboards," he says. Possibly, in an effort to distract him from racing dirt bikes, his parents encouraged him to try go-kart racing when he was 11. Ryan proved a natural at the fast-paced sport and won Australian, North American and Italian karting championships within five years. That success in karting drew the attention of professional racing teams and launched his career in the industry. To date, he has eight IndyCar wins and won both

the Rolex 24 at Daytona and 12 Hours of Sebring in 2015.

Though Farmington might seem an unlikely spot for a girl from Illinois and a boy from Australia to settle, both Nicole and Ryan love their new home. Ryan found local tracks at Stafford Motor Speedway and Lime Rock Park, the latter of which he races once a year. "It's really beautiful. We're two hours from the city, we're an hour and a half from Boston, a bit over an hour to the beach, we're two hours from great skiing," Ryan says. "I love it, I love the area."



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Will Shortz, *The New York Times* crossword puzzle editor, has brought the national crossword puzzle tournament back to Stamford. PHOTOS BY DONALD CHRISTENSEN

Crossing Over

AS CROSSWORDS GO DIGITAL, PUZZLEMASTER WILL SHORTZ'S STAMFORD TOURNEY ENDURES

BY FRANK RIZZO

Will Shortz remembers the first national crossword puzzle tournament at Stamford's Marriott Hotel on a March weekend in 1978.

"I underestimated how many officials we needed," says Shortz, 64, *New York Times* crossword puzzle editor and all-around guru of American games. "We didn't have computers then — we didn't even bring an adding machine — and were literally up all night scoring the puzzles by hand."

Times have changed and there is now computerized scoring, puzzle solving that can be followed online, and, for the final round at the upcoming 40th anniversary tournament March 24-26, there's even play-by-play commentary by National Public Radio's Ophira Eisenberg (host of *Ask Me Another*) and crossword master Greg Pliska.

In 1978, the \$150 top prize was awarded

by former *New York Times* crossword editor Margaret Farrar, whose career with the word games began in the 1920s. Now the top tournament winner receives \$5,000.

But these puzzle folks haven't changed much, though the range of people has broadened, Shortz says of the crowd of nearly 1,000 that turns out for the weekend — including about 600 official competitors.

In these divided-nation times, Shortz says he wants the puzzles to connect with all types of solvers.

"A puzzle that skewed too young or old is going to lose a part of its audience," he says. "I would never present a topical puzzle on the subject of Broadway or about cars — especially in a tournament — because that would skew the results unfairly to someone who is particularly good in one field. That's not to say we won't have cultural references, but I try to

have them varied so the challenges will be shared equally."

The biggest change that crosswords have faced is the computer. "Crosswords are a little better suited to print than it is to the electronic media. There is still that tactile pleasure in moving a writing implement across a paper. It's different — and not quite as good — as typing. You can also jump from one part of the grid to another more easily on paper. With that said, crosswords are going to come through all right in the new world."

After all, the demand is bigger than ever and that can translate into revenue. He says there are 225,000 paid subscribers to *The New York Times* crossword puzzle, bringing in money so significant it was cited as a separate revenue stream in its fiscal reports. "I'm proud of that fact because it helps the journalism that the *Times* does," says Shortz.



Will Shortz congratulating a 2016 group winner.

Would a young person starting out see the future of crossword puzzles the same way he did when he began?

“There are differences. Things that work well on paper don’t work in computers, and vice versa.”

But the future is weighed more in favor of the electronic media, he says. “Still, the principles of what makes good puzzles are the same.”

And their appeal is robust in the 21st century. “Crossword puzzles are ideally suited for the modern age where people have short attention spans. A daily crossword has 76 clues and answers and your mind jumps from one thing to the next. But now there’s an even faster-paced puzzle that’s 5-by-5 with 10 answers that has a huge following.”



To celebrate the 75th anniversary of *The New York Times’* crossword, Shortz has matched celebrity crossword fans with puzzle constructors. Among those with a way with words will be actor Jesse Eisenberg, scientist and TV star Neil deGrasse

Tyson, classical pianist Emanuel Ax, designer Isaac Mizrahi and actors Lisa Loeb, Olivia Wilde and Josh Radnor.

Shortz also answered some puzzling questions:

No, he can’t take a puzzle-free vacation. “You can’t turn it off. It’s part of your life. Like if you’re a writer, everything is about ideas.”

Yes, his favorite breakfast cereal is indeed Alpha-Bits (which was a recent answer of TV’s *Jeopardy!*)

No, a crossword puzzle doesn’t activate every part of the brain — but it’s close. (For the perfect exercise, according to a brain expert Shortz knows, it’s table tennis.)

And before we go, can Shortz give us a puzzle?

“What’s a two-word phrase in seven letters that has two Rs exactly in the middle?”

Answer: see page 16.

THE READING ROOM

MARCH FARM: SEASON BY SEASON ON A CONNECTICUT FAMILY FARM

By Nancy McMillan
Whistling Hawk Press
2012, 90 pages

While it is sometimes easy to forget for those of us who live in the more densely populated parts of Connecticut, agriculture is still a big part of life here. Nancy McMillan’s wonderful book is full of pictures, recipes and essays that all illustrate the beauty of country life in Bethlehem. McMillan takes her reader through the incredibly complex and intricate processes that make a farm function. Photographs by Stuart



Rabinowitz and Jack Huber bring the farm to life, alongside interviews with workers and farmers. — *Michael Lee-Murphy*

PUTIN COUNTRY: A JOURNEY INTO THE REAL RUSSIA

By Anne Garrels
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
2016, 240 pages

“When thousands of middle-class Muscovites took to the streets in 2010 and 2012 to protest election fraud, corruption and malfeasance, the rest of the country remained relatively silent,” writes Anne Garrels in her eye-opening account of modern life in the Chelyabinsk region of Russia. “In those days, should you have read the Western media, you would have been persuaded the country was on the edge of rebellion,” Garrels continues, but warns this was wishful thinking on the part of the foreign press. In most of Russia the country’s strongman leader

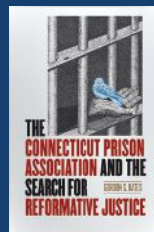


Vladimir Putin was as popular as ever. With a clear, concise writing style, Garrels, a veteran NPR reporter and longtime Moscow correspondent, takes us inside the Chelyabinsk heartland region. When the Connecticut resident writes that Chelyabinsk is “Putin country,” and “has only become more so,” it reads like a warning. — *Erik Ofgang*

THE CONNECTICUT PRISON ASSOCIATION AND THE SEARCH FOR REFORMATORY JUSTICE

By Gordon Bates
Wesleyan University Press
January 2017, 506 pages

Prisons have been in the news a lot recently. Barack Obama became the first sitting president to visit a prison in 2015, and Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has made prison reform a major policy goal. Conversations about prisons are shifting, and it is a perfect time for Bates’ history of the 140-year-old Connecticut Prison Association. It is undoubtedly a history “from-the-inside,” as Bates was the association’s director for some 17 years. Bates takes us through different eras in the state prison system, characterized by “rehabilitation” or “retribution.”



Throughout the book, we see how the prison system oscillates back and forth between these two notions of incarceration.

— *Michael Lee-Murphy*

Danbury Arts Advocate Digging In

BY ERIK OFGANG

In times like this, with federal funding for arts programs in danger of being slashed, you need to make loud arguments to the private sector about the value of supporting the arts, says Lisa Scails, executive director of the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut, which serves the Danbury area.

"I think we're going to be in for some really difficult times in the next few years, where arts support from a federal level is concerned," Scails says. "My position is that the arts are a viable way to keep a community vibrant. We really will need the support of businesses and business leaders more now than ever."

In the coming years Scails will be well placed to make those arguments, as she was recently elected to a three-year term on the Private Sector Council of Americans for the Arts, a national arts advocacy group with offices in Washington and New York. As a

member of the council, Scails will work with other arts leaders to develop and implement advocacy programs and help serve as resource for local arts agencies seeking to connect with the private sector.



"I'm looking forward to learning a lot about what people are doing across the country in this regard and it's also exciting to share some successes and strives that we've made here," Scails says. "We're trying to educate the business community and really the community at large that the arts and businesses do have connections,

and there are some synergies, and in some ways we kind of need one another to help build community. What I've found over the years is when we've talked about that and put a spotlight on that, it has helped."

The storefront space of the offices of the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut in downtown Danbury is fittingly eclectic. It is part office, part art gallery and part

all-around, mixed-use space. An art show called *Shelter* by Susan McCaslin is on display. Striking grayed newspaper clippings hang on the walls, creating a unique feel for the space. Scails' desk is at the end of an open area, near a large central table where members of the community sometimes work. Andrea Gartner, former director of CityCenter Danbury, is working on plans for her new downtown Danbury coffee shop and wine bar. The back of the offices is rented to a boutique furniture and clothing store specializing in unique items.

For Scails, a native of Danbury, the path to arts advocacy has not been a direct one. She started her professional life in social service, working to develop anti-addiction programs for schools, and then as a community developer for nonprofits. From there she embarked on a 15-year civil rights career, during which time she served two years as the president of the Connecticut branch of the NAACP. But all along Scails, who at one point was an amateur modern dancer, says she thought creatively and often worked with arts organizations. She also learned many of the skills that she currently uses to effectively do her job. "While I was working in civil rights advocacy, that's where I built a good base of experience, and some level of understanding about community mobilization, and bringing together disparate people with different interests, together around a common cause," she says.

Today, she often makes the argument that when it comes to community revitalization, arts are a very cost-effective strategy. "Of all the strategies you can look at to solve problems, the arts arguably can be one of the most economical," she says.

Although she says arts and artisans can accomplish a lot with limited funding, they do need *some* funding, and Scails believes this could be harder to come by in the near future. "There's talk of cutting the NEA [National Endowment for the Arts] funding altogether, the humanities altogether. If that actually happens it could cripple the arts resources in this area," Scails says. But she's not throwing her hands up in despair; instead she's going to fight even harder for the arts. "We're going to dig in and call on our corporate leaders and philanthropic-minded individuals in the times ahead," she says.

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BEST OF CONNECTICUT

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Answer from page 15: at worst (Get it? atwoRst)



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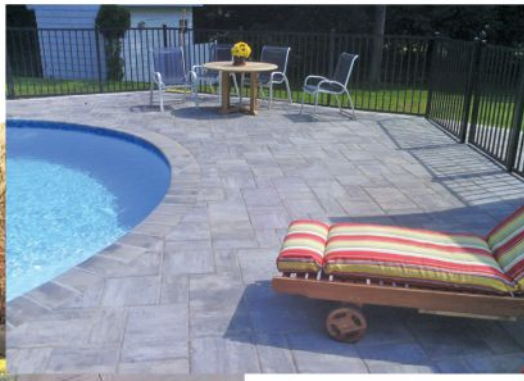
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Justin Persico, MD

1. In November, more than 500 guests attended the **2016 Giving Hope Gala**, which raised more than \$1.15 million for Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, serving individuals who would benefit from the hospital's long-term residential treatment programs but are without adequate resources to cover the costs. MSNBC's *Morning Joe* co-anchors Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski (pictured) hosted the evening in New York City. (photo by patrickmcmullan.com)



2. William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance raised nearly \$500,000 at the second annual **William Raveis Ride + Walk** in Norwalk and Hingham, Massachusetts. In Norwalk, nearly 600 people participated and volunteered in the event to benefit the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, which provides funding to early-career scientists with innovative research ideas to pursue new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat all forms of cancer. From left: CEO and founder William Raveis, his daughter-in-law Meghan Raveis (managing director, William Raveis Charitable Fund), and his two sons and co-presidents Ryan Raveis and Chris Raveis. (photo by Oliver Bencosme, ©PlanOmatic 2016)



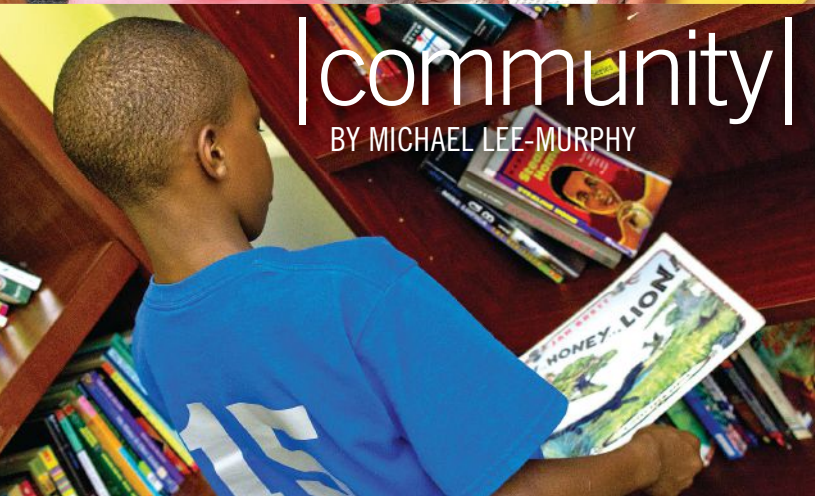
3. Author Irene Levin Berman, a child Holocaust survivor, spoke at a Jan. 19 **Town and County Club Dinner** about her recently published second book *Norway Wasn't Too Small: A Fact-Based Novel About Darkness and Survival*. Born in Norway just before the 1940 Nazi invasion, Berman was one of 1,200 Norwegian Jews who avoided annihilation by escaping to neutral Sweden, compared to the almost 800 who were killed. From left: Karin Stahl, Sara Markham, Sally Richter, Berman, Kate Dixon and Debra Conant. (photo by Susan R. Barney)



4. **Hughes Health & Rehabilitation** was visited by West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor and state Sen. Beth Bye to honor the facility's numerous regional and national awards it received during the past year. Cantor presented a Town of West Hartford proclamation and Bye gave a General Assembly official citation to senior staff at Hughes' West Hartford facility. Both proclamations noted Hughes' recent awards and achievement in providing quality care. From left: Cantor, Hughes Health & Rehabilitation Vice President Mark Finkelstein, Bye, Assistant Director of Nursing Iride Beiletti and Director of Nursing Lina Dureza. (photo by John Marinelli)



5. Administrators and staff from Farmington Bank joined forces to hold a **holiday children's clothing drive** to benefit My Sisters' Place, an organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Greater Hartford. Collectively, Farmington Bank employees donated more than 300 pieces of clothing including outfits, outerwear, accessories and much more to My Sisters' Place. (photo courtesy of Farmington Bank)



community

BY MICHAEL LEE MURPHY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW HAVEN READS

THE ORGANIZATION: New Haven Reads

THE STORY: In her small office inside the main New Haven Reads building on Bristol Street, Kirsten Levinsohn stares up at a mess of information on a whiteboard. There are names with dollar signs affixed to them, numbers which she uses her thumb to erase and adjust. Like a bookie or an equity trader, Levinsohn sees a larger narrative emerging out of the numbers.

Levinsohn is the executive director of New Haven Reads, which, since its founding some 16 years ago, has quietly transformed into an extensive network of facilities with an army of educators and volunteers, all dedicated to a premise both simple and complicated: the children of New Haven should be able to read. She is looking at the patchwork of funding sources that make up NHR's yearly operating budget of \$700,000. While it is a difficult task to keep the books balanced in any year, Levinsohn says, this year is presenting particular uncertainty. She references various local and federal grants — such as the city's Youth Violence Prevention Grant, and the federal Community Development Block Grant — that are at risk of being cut back severely. "It feels a little bit like a roller coaster right now," Levinsohn says. Most of the budget goes toward salaries. (Three of the four NHR buildings are owned by Yale, which gives them the spaces rent-free.)

When it began in 2001, New Haven Reads was a book donation center that gave away free books to anyone who wanted them. While the book bank still exists, NHR's current focus is on its substantial tutoring and literacy advocacy programs. Today, New Haven Reads is spread over four locations throughout the city, has 22 paid employees, and about 380 volunteer tutors, giving lessons to nearly 500 children. And even those numbers are not up to the challenge presented by the need to read in New Haven. The organization currently has a waiting list that fluctuates between 80 and 100 children.

Tanya Smith, New Haven Reads' education director, explains that

each tutoring session is an hour long and is split into four sections. First, pupils begin with a reading comprehension and phonics computer program, which establishes a benchmark. Second, students move on to a workbook that responds to the established area of need. Students then have 15 minutes of story time, in which children read out loud, and tutors read to them. "We let the tutors know, you may be the only person that reads to that child today," Smith says. The final 15 minutes of the tutoring hour are for games that develop oral-language skills, including full sentences and new vocabulary.

Smith, who came to New Haven after many years teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District, says NHR developed its model in-house. Another element of NHR's work on behalf of its pupils extends into the schools. The organization has gradually, and in a sort of ad-hoc fashion, developed into an advocacy organization within the city's public schools. (NHR tutors children from each of New Haven's public schools.) Smith says if a student is reading well below their grade level, and parents want the child to have access to special services in the schooling program, "we kind of guide the parent, step by step, through that process," opening lines of communication with school teachers about a particular student.

The atmosphere in the Bristol Street location was one of pure energy. It is one thing to hear bromides about "the joy of reading," but it is altogether a different thing to see it. A Monday afternoon visit during the tutoring session found children buzzing and running back and forth with armfuls of books from the program's free library. New Haven Reads "is the happiest place in the world," says Levinsohn.

New Haven Reads is always in need of tutors, and financial contributions to keep the lights on. Donate at newhavenreads.org/home/donate.

If you have an organization with an event that you'd like us to consider for the Community page, please send the details to mmurphy@connecticutmag.com.



Dinner and a Movie at the Gilson

People have been flocking to 354 Main St. in the heart of Winsted since 1926, when the building opened as a vaudeville theater.

Alan Nero, now 62, is too young to have been there for those vaudeville performances. But he vividly remembers being on hand as a kid in the 1950s and '60s, taking in double-feature matinees on Saturday afternoons with his pals.

For many years the theater was called the Strand. But in 1985, when Nero, a former Winsted fireman, acted on his idea of converting the theater into a movies-and-food place, he wanted to rename it in honor of his mentor.

And so he called up Warren Gilson, who was then living in a rest home in Texas and terminally ill from cancer.

"I asked him if it would be OK to name the theater after him," Nero recalls. "He said, 'Of course.'"

Gilson, a technician and movie pioneer in the early days of the film industry, had previously taught Nero how to operate the carbon arc projectors in the theater.

"He put me through a rigorous training for two to three weeks," says Nero, who had bought and began to run the theater, but for a while still called it the Strand.

Nero adds wistfully, "He never got to see me bring the Gilson to fruition." Gilson died in June 1988.

Some Connecticut residents might remember the Poor Richard's movies-and-meals places from the 1980s in East Hartford and North Haven, but they had a short run. Nero asserts the Gilson Cafe and Cinema is today the state's only movie theater where patrons are served meals.

Asked why he is the one and only person doing this, Nero replies, "It's a lot of hours. There's somebody making food all day long. I'm here six days a week, 12 hours a day. But I don't have a problem with that. It's an enjoyable business."

However, the days of afternoon matinees are over. Movies are shown at the Gilson at night only.

"We try to avoid children," Nero says. "One reason is we serve drinks. And there's a limited time to serve everybody. Children have a tendency to drag out what they want." (No one under 21 is admitted Fridays and Saturdays. On other nights, children 12 and older are permitted if accompanied by a parent. The Gilson is closed Mondays.)

The Gilson's old-timey marquee seems



Alan Nero, owner of Gilson Cafe & Cinema in Winsted, pours drinks at the bar. PHOTO BY CATHERINE AVALONE

Gilson Cafe and Cinema

354 Main St., Winsted
860-379-5108, gilsoncafeandcinema.com

Admission: \$8.50 (no age discounts)

Hours: Doors open at 6 p.m., showtimes at 7 p.m. daily, closed Mon.

to beckon you with its glow. Inside are Art Deco light fixtures, old posters from the Strand — *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with Charles Laughton, *Road to Singapore* with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby — and two cozy screening rooms.

The more spacious one downstairs has 160 seats, while upstairs seats 50. Couples sit at small tables facing the screen and are served food and drinks by waitresses.

When I came to the Gilson with my wife on a Saturday night in January, *La La Land* was playing downstairs and *Manchester By the Sea* upstairs. Both were sold out.

Nero, holding down his usual spot as bartender while we talk, notes he usually sells out on Saturdays. (Reservations are recommended for Fridays and Saturdays; call 860-379-5108 or go to gilsoncafeandcinema.com.)

The Gilson has seen increased patronage over the past several years. Nero thinks that's because he began showing first-run movies about two years ago and some customers are rediscovering the charms of the place.

"We tend to get older people who come in after their day's work," Nero says. "It's like a date night."

Kim Begey, standing in the lobby, considers herself lucky to live nearby in

Torrington. She has been coming to the Gilson for about 30 years.

"It's awesome," she says. "It's the only theater around here where you can sit and eat and enjoy the movie. It's a nice night out."

Begey adds, "They have top-notch movies. And the food is good."

My wife and I also liked the servings (a salmon burger for me, an eggplant sandwich for her) and we tell Nero, who beams proudly.

"We make everything," he tells us. "We don't buy boxes of things. Our soups, our chili are made here. I do the meats. I make my roast beef, I make my pork loin."

In addition to a variety of sandwiches, the menu also includes appetizers such as nachos, as well as salads, desserts (peanut butter pie, tuxedo mousse cake, etc.), draft beer, wine, espresso, cappuccino, international coffees with Irish brandy, whiskey, brandy or sambuca (all with whipped cream) and special drinks such as the Gilson Cooler: rum, amaretto and pineapple juice). A meal and a drink will likely run you about \$15-\$20. You can get popcorn and soda, too, but not candy.

As patrons leave the Gilson, they might notice a photo of Warren Gilson on the wall and this framed message from Nero: "It is in appreciation of his giving heart, his love of show and all that he taught me that I named the theater after him. Warren died in June of 1988. Thank you again and again, Warren."

Randall Beach is the longtime columnist for the New Haven Register, where his column appears Fridays and Sundays.

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860-685-3355, wesleyan.edu/cfa**

BIG-TIME DANCE

For a dance show with some serious pomp and circumstance, check out the legendary Cirque du Soleil, as practitioners apply their dance pyrotechnics to James Cameron's *Avatar* with their **Toruk: The First Flight** from March 15-19 at the XL Center in Hartford. This show is the first time Cirque du Soleil has done a show based on a film, and it is sure to be one of the most spectacular events at the XL Center all year.

xlcenter.com



CHILI TO BEAT THE CHILLY

It's been a relatively mild winter. Even so, who would turn down a hot bowl of chili to warm your bones? The **21st annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest** March 4 is sure to do the trick. Hosted by the town's Chamber of Commerce, the chili fest is a competition, and all proceeds go to a scholarship fund to send four local teenagers to college. oldsaybrookchamber.com/pages/chilifest



THE CARPET WEAVERS

The nation of Afghanistan has been embroiled in war for some 40 years: from Soviet occupation in the 1980s to rebellion against the Taliban government in the 1990s to the American conflict there in the 2000s until the present day. How do Afghans tell their own story? Throughout March, April and May, New London's Lyman Allyn Museum is hosting a touring exhibition **From Combat to Carpet: The Art of Afghan War Rugs**. lymanallyn.org

ANCIENT ARTS

Classical Chinese dance is an artform with millennia of history, and on March 18 and 19, the Connecticut Falun Dafa Association brings a spectacular dance performance to Waterbury's Palace Theater with **Shen Yun**. With a live orchestra, 100 performers and more than 400 costumes, there's plenty to keep your attention. palacetheaterct.org



HARD TO KILL BLUES

The king of the kick, the prince of the ponytail, the czar of the zinger: **Steven Seagal** is a martial arts and action film star, but did you know he's also a bluesman? The star of such legendary action flicks as *Hard To Kill*, *Out for Justice* and *Exit Wounds* (in which he co-stars with rapper DMX) is coming to the Ridgefield Playhouse with his blues band on March 12. Tickets are \$90. ridgefieldplayhouse.org

See March 2017 calendar listings at
connecticutmag.com/calendar

Adam Savage was one of the hosts of the Discovery Channel's runaway-success show *MythBusters*, which ran from 2003 to 2016. On March 8, he brings his love of discovery and experimentation to the Bushnell in Hartford, where he appears with YouTube sensation Michael Stevens. We asked him what science means to him, and why it's fundamental, and fun, too.

Most people probably know you from the Discovery Channel show *MythBusters*. How does the *Brain Candy* show differ from *MythBusters*? What's similar and what's new?

Similar to *MythBusters*, *Brain Candy* is about discovery — not the channel. It's really about the pleasures of discovery: how it feels in your mind to understand something. That process of understanding something in your head is what Michael and I call *Brain Candy*. What's different and significant is that *MythBusters* was an experimentation show, not a demonstration show, which is different than all other science programming before *MythBusters* where they would describe a concept and then show you how it worked. On *MythBusters* we didn't know how it worked so we were really figuring it out for real on the fly. *Brain Candy* ends up being more demonstration than experimentation, but the twist we're bringing to this is the ways in which we're stacking up the demonstrations. In school we end up feeling often like science is the study of facts to memorize. But a scientist will tell you that those facts don't mean anything unless you put them in context, unless you have a story about how they work together. So what we've done on *Brain Candy* is we've constructed a narrative of science demonstrations and conceptual descriptions that will help you understand things like how air moves on a molecular and even an atomic level simply by using a whole bunch of different demonstrations.

***MythBusters* always seemed like a popularization of the scientific method and making that a fun and engaging process.**

The most shocking thing that I learned on *MythBusters*, and literally

this happened to me while we were making the show, was the clarity that the scientific method is a deeply creative process. For us, building that story where you get to understand the facts in context and see something in a new light is absolutely thrilling to us.

***Brain Candy* is described as a "two-hour play date with Walt Disney, Willy Wonka and Albert Einstein." How do you get those three characters together in your mind?**

I think of storytelling as one of the most fundamental things that separates humans from all other animals. We do two things that are unique in concert: we make things, and we tell stories about them. And the stories, whether they're science or art, are ways in which we understand our world. They always have been. I would submit that it's likely that language evolved in order to tell stories. Because we needed to kill larger beasts, and we needed to let our compadres know to wait behind this rock at this time of day at this season so the large things came through, and if you used a big arrowhead, it would carve up their insides faster. All of these concepts are basically iterative experimentation for survival. So to me, Einstein absolutely is a storyteller. He even said something akin to his belief in God was all the things he didn't understand about the universe. He understood that there were questions that would never get answered, but as long as he kept trying to parse the data that he had and to put it in some context, he was literally building a story to try and understand

his world. And we do the same thing when we enjoy a novel or a movie. To me, when Walt Disney makes a film that resonates with us, it's because it helps us understand the world, not because it helps us escape it.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) seems to be becoming a bigger and bigger part of our education and economy. Do you see your work as part of that?

Well, I hope so. I also say STEAM, because art is an intrinsic part of it, not an extrinsic part. The fact that *MythBusters* ended up becoming an educational show that inspired kids and people to get into the sciences was never intended. It was not part of the original mission of the show; it grew organically out of the stuff we were doing on the show. Nothing is more humbling and amazing to me than the effect that *MythBusters* has had. All that I've understood about being a maker in the world and learning how to be an engineer and learning how to be a scientist ultimately comes down to having the confidence of my own vantage point. And there's tremendous power in that. What *Brain Candy* means is the feeling of understanding something in your head.

There is a changing and complicated relationship between publically or federally funded science and politics these days. Do you have any thoughts about that?

Yeah, it feels like that. It feels like there is a greater tension around the sciences. Our ability to experiment with our world and understand it better is what has gotten us this far as a civilization, and our continuing clarity about it is really important as a species. Plus what feels, in some corners, like a loose relationship with objective truth and politicizing objective truth is very troubling to the scientist in me and all the scientists I know.

What might a person see at *Brain Candy* that they won't want to miss?

We 3-D print a human, live on stage, in front of the audience.

| MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY |

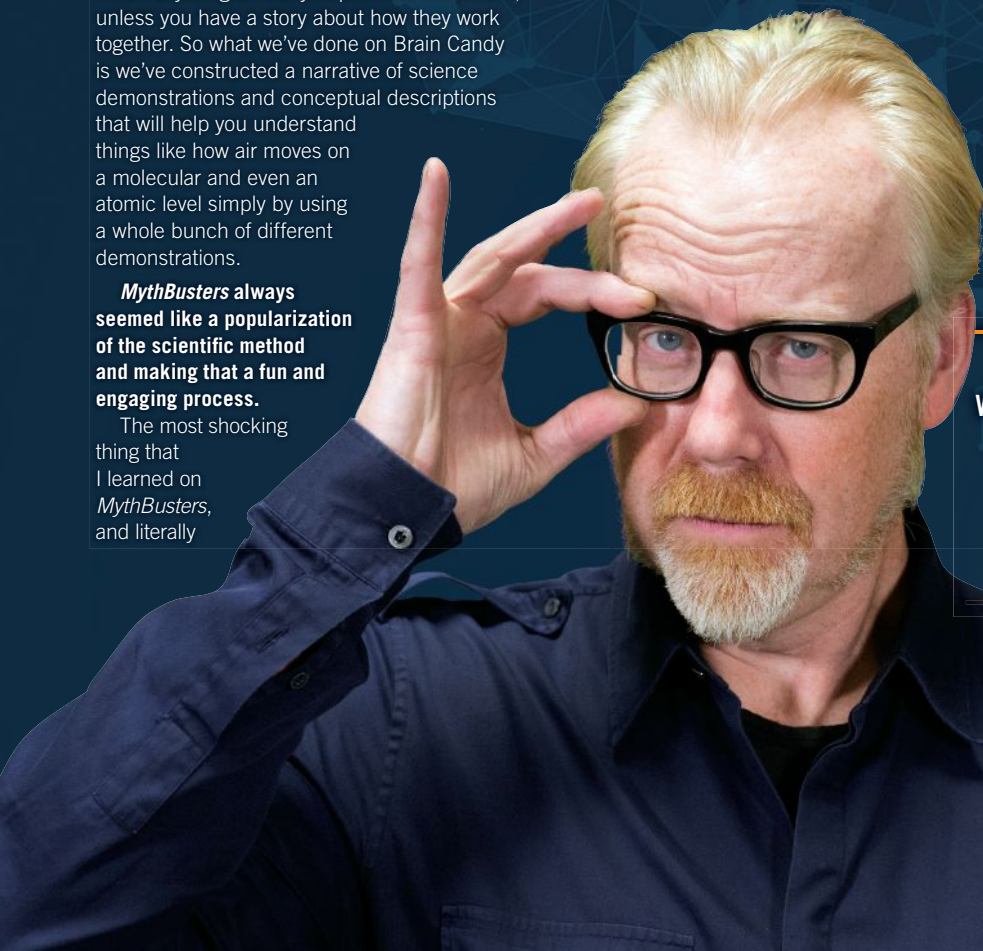
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860-987-5900, bushnell.org





Bookstores: Good for the Soul

BY MICHAEL
LEE-MURPHY

At its best, a bookstore is just one point in a larger constellation of relationships, housed in physical spaces, that make up that nebulous but essential thing we call *community*. It can even be the center of the constellation. In an era when more and more reading is taking place on screens, and less and less commerce is taking place in the physical world, independent bookstores find themselves threatened by the pincer movement of big-box suburban mega-bookstores on one side, and online delivery systems like Amazon and digital books on the other.

Attorney Norm Pattis told our *Beachcombing* columnist Randall Beach that purchasing Whitlock's Book Barn in Bethany in 2005 was "a reckless decision on my part." Writing on her website about the decision to purchase the House of Books in Kent in 2013, owner Robin Dill-Herde says she has to "admit it was a radical thing to do, rebellious even." Well, here's to the reckless rebels. These are our favorite independent bookstores in the state.

THE BOOK BARN

Niantic

The Book Barn isn't so much a bookstore as a book *compound*. The original store is centered around a house, and sprawls across several buildings. In recent years, The Book Barn has opened three satellite locations in Niantic, and boasts some 500,000 books in its ever-changing stock. If you really love your books, be careful, because this place could take up a lot of your time.

41 W. Main St.

860-739-5715, bookbarnniantic.com

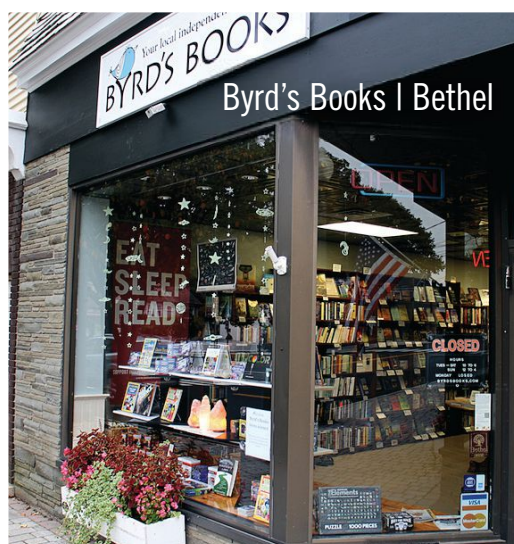
WHITLOCK'S BOOK BARN

Bethany

Columnist Randall Beach profiled Whitlock's Book Barn in our January issue. Housed in the same type of rustic structure as Niantic's Book Barn, Whitlock's was bought in 2005 by New Haven civil rights attorney and *New Haven Register* columnist Norm Pattis. According to Pattis, "a community without a bookstore is like a body without a heart." Check out Whitlock's Book Barn to ensure good heart health.

20 Sperry Road

203-393-1240, whitlocksbookbarn.com



BYRD'S BOOKS

Bethel

A relative newcomer on the list, Bethel's Byrd's Books opened in 2011 in a 450-square-foot space above the Molten Java coffee shop on Greenwood Avenue, and has since moved to its current 1,300-square-foot location. Owner Alice Hutchinson — her middle name is Byrd — is passionate about highlighting local authors, and about the role bookstores play in local communities. Asked what a local, independent bookstore means for the community, Hutchinson's answer is simple: "It means survival."

126 Greenwood Ave.

203-730-2973, byrdsbooks.com



The Book Barn | Niantic

HOUSE OF BOOKS

Kent

Having celebrated 40 years in business last year, this “literary landmark” in the Litchfield Hills has survived the growth of online booksellers, digital reading devices and the short attention spans of the internet era. House of Books features regular book and author signings. Like several bookstores on the list, the House of Books sits nestled on a main street, surrounded by several other local stores in a walkable, engaging community.

10 N. Main St.

860-927-4104,

houseofbooksct.com

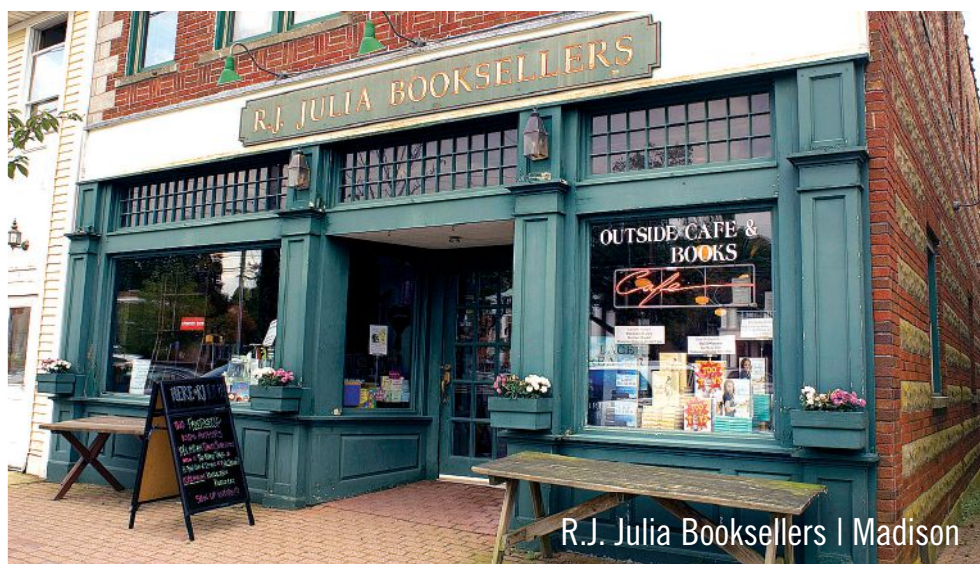
BRICK WALK BOOKSHOP

West Hartford

Located in what has to be one of the most competitive retail towns in the state, this bookshop also specializes in fine art, in case you’re looking to decorate your home as well as your imagination. The offerings here are primarily used books, with a focus on art. For a bonus, check out the truly wonderful and old-fashioned Quaker Diner across the street.

322 Park Road

860-233-1730



R.J. Julia Booksellers | Madison

R.J. JULIA BOOKSELLERS

Madison

In many ways, this shoreline bookshop is one of the premier destinations for Connecticut book fiends. R.J. Julia hosts authors on tour who are launching books, or in their monthly “Voices in the Bookstore” reading series, which highlights local writers in an open-mike-type event. Check their site often for new author events. In February, owner Roxanne Coady launched her *Just the Right Book* podcast, leveraging years of relationships in the publishing world into a podcast for the rest of us to enjoy.

768 Boston Post Road

203-245-3959, rjjulia.com

DIANE’S BOOKS

Greenwich

This downtown institution opened in 1990 when local resident Diane Garrett decided the town needed a bookstore. It is one of the last independent bookstores in downtown Greenwich, and has a down-to-earth, humble feeling amid the glitz and glamour of the Greenwich Avenue luxury shopping district. Host to many author events, Diane’s describes itself as a “family bookstore,” meaning there’s something here for everyone.

8 Grigg St. A

203-869-1515, dianasbooks.com

BANK STREET BOOK NOOK

New Milford

In terms of the nourishing joy and warmth of patronizing local businesses, New Milford is a feast. Bank Street’s Book Nook is nestled right next to a small cinema, and surrounded by coffee shops, needlepoint and toy stores. The Book Nook keeps its front window updated with *The New York Times* bestseller list, so you’re always on top of what’s new and fresh.

40 Bank St.

860-354-3865, bankstreetbooks.net

BANK SQUARE BOOKS

Mystic

This shop in downtown Mystic describes itself not only as independent, but fiercely so. Along with its sister bookstore, the new and beautiful Savoy Bookshop and Cafe in Westerly, Rhode Island, Bank Square hosts reading discussion groups once a month, and story time every Saturday morning at 11.

53 W. Main St.

860-536-3795, banksquarebooks.com

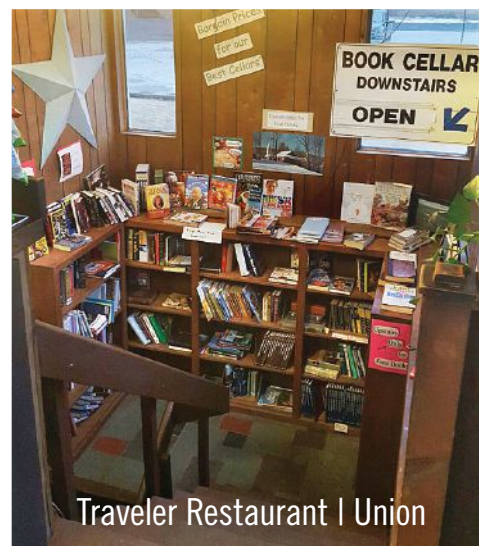
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Union

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Traveler Restaurant | Union

The Shape of Hartford Jazz to Come

THE MIKE CASEY TRIO RELEASES *THE SOUNDS OF SURPRISE: LIVE AT THE SIDE DOOR*

BY MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY

Like horse racing and boxing, jazz is one of those quintessentially American pastimes, the demise of which is constantly predicted and then subsequently proven wrong. Other flashier, easier modes of entertainment come along. But these art forms survive, as young people devote themselves to the craft. Connecticut jazz devotees, then, should keep an eye on Mike Casey. This month, Casey and his trio are releasing their debut album, *The Sounds of Surprise: Live at The Side Door*. The disc is a cause for celebration, as the trio of Mike Casey on sax, Matt Dwonszyk on bass and Corey Garcia on drums bring us a sound that is traditionalist in its orientation, adventurous in its efforts, and proud in its local flavor.

To be a true jazz fan — especially away from a big city like New York — is to feel like one is entering some sort of hidden fraternity, with a glorious past, a hidden present and an uncertain future. *Star Wars* fans might find that characterization instructive. Casey, an unabashed partisan

of the Hartford jazz scene, has named one of the tunes on the new album “Dagobah,” after the swampy hideout where Luke Skywalker hones his craft as a Jedi. “In a sense, Hartford is the Dagobah of the jazz world. It’s halfway between New York and Boston. It’s got a long history of really excellent jazz, and in the current jazz scene ... there’s a staggering amount of jazz for the size of the city,” Casey says. Casey and his bandmates are all connected in some way to the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz at the University of Hartford’s Hartt School of Music, named for the late dean of the Hartford jazz world. (Casey and Dwonszyk are graduates, Garcia is in his senior year.)

Casey’s group is what’s known as a chordless trio, a less-than-common format that breaks from the chord-based structure of bands that have either a piano or guitar. Casey says that, in addition to McLean and other late Hartford stalwart bassist Paul Brown, sax player Sonny Rollins is another of his biggest influences, since he heard Rollins’ *Freedom Suite* record during his freshmen year

PHOTOS BY AIREN MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

at Hartt. "I saw the possibilities that Sonny was using on that album to write original music in that format, without harmony specifically. There's harmony there, but it's implied. ... I just thought that was the coolest thing," Casey says. The format is lean and mean, and for it to be successful, the various players have to have a particular confidence in their style.

Casey's new album was recorded at The Side Door, the critically acclaimed Old

is not afraid to let them take control in stretches of the song.

During a particularly creative and exciting arrangement of the Queen anthem "We Are the Champions," it is clear the trio uses energy to great effect. The smile across Casey's face is a good indicator he is pleased with how the tune went.

After the break, the pace quickens, with Casey switching from tenor to alto saxophone, the horn on which he feels more

at home. It's also free-flowing; the shots of Patrón tequila for Dwonszyk and Garcia at the bar during the intermission may have had an effect.

Those interested in hearing exciting, young jazz can check out the live trio March 2 at Black-Eyed Sally's in Hartford, the official release show for the

album. Perhaps as a testament to his love for the capital city, the show is a benefit for Hartford-based social entrepreneurship incubator RiseUp, hosted by up-and-coming Hartford rapper Tang Sauce. RiseUp Executive Director Matt Conway says the organization is geared toward working with youth in Hartford to start and operate their own businesses, focusing on those marginalized by poverty and past involvement in the criminal justice system.

Conway and RiseUp couldn't have found a music that fits better: a proud, scrappy local jazz trio, steeped in Hartford's creative tradition.

MIKE CASEY TRIO ALBUM RELEASE

MARCH 2 | 7:30 P.M.

BLACK-EYED SALLY'S | 350 ASYLUM ST., HARTFORD

Tickets: \$30

mikecaseyjazz.com

Lyme club that has made a splash in the local jazz scene. The album was recorded in February 2016, and last month Casey and his trio made a triumphant return to a sold-out show in the purpose-built jazz club. Across a performance that runs well into the night, Casey, Dwonszyk and Garcia are ripping. They open with a medley of Charlie Parker standards, a nod to the traditionalist grounding of the trio, before lashing into several originals. Casey's "Dagobah" — his Hartford love song — contains a concealed energy like a compressed coil. Garcia and Dwonszyk are fine players in their own right, and Casey



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The People's Museum

NORWICH'S SLATER MEMORIAL MUSEUM CONTINUES MISSION TO BRING ART, HISTORY TO THE COMMUNITY

BY MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY

During the Industrial Revolution until the first Gilded Age at the turn of the 20th century, wealthy industrialists would pump money back into their communities so society as a whole could experience the benefits of arts and culture.

Pittsburgh had the Carnegies, New York had the Rockefellers, and Norwich — The Rose of New England — had the Slaters, who derived their wealth from textile production during the Civil War. John Fox Slater, who died in 1884, founded Norwich Free Academy in 1854, and as a bow atop the gift of the school to the city, Slater

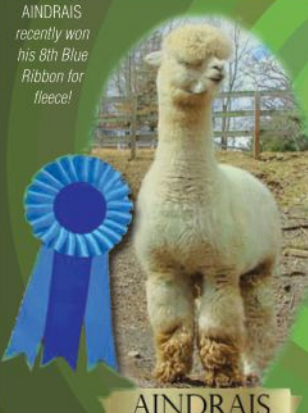
donated the building that would become today's Slater Memorial Museum.

A guided tour from Vivian Zoë, the museum's director, reveals an impressive collection of sculpture and visual art firmly rooted in the history and character of Norwich. One current exhibit features items from various trips the Slater family took around the world, which Zoë says the school is using to revive another old concept: the study and teaching of geography. "We thought: how could we use objects already in our collection and a very Norwich and NFA story, to help students and the general public learn about geography?" she says.

The sight of the central hall comes as a shock for those not expecting it. Turning the corner out of the gift-shop area, one is confronted by a number of large statues in a great hall, like some lost Easter Island. This writer uttered an audible gasp entering the room. "That's always what I love to hear," Zoë says. The statues are mostly plaster casts of the most famous statues in the world. Explaining the somewhat mystifying expanse of the plaster cast collection, Zoë says it is very much a project of 19th-century ideas about education. "This is the 19th century; people couldn't travel the way they can now. So the purpose was then the same, really as it is today: to teach ancient history, to expose people who can't get to the actual sites to what was considered to be the canon of the great Western works of art," she says.

The building is in the distinctive style known as Richardsonian Romanesque, of which Trinity Church in Boston's Copley Square is a classic example. According to Zoë, the building was first conceived of as an "atheneum," common to the era, which imagined a civically minded building "where there would be the uplifting of mind, body and spirit," Zoë says.

As such, what is now the museum's great hall, housing the bulk of the plaster-cast collection, was originally envisioned



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as a gymnasium. On the first floor is a massive auditorium, and another room of the building was initially designed as a library. This attitude of civic accessibility continues, as admission to the museum is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students, and free for children under 12.

The museum also houses collections of Islamic and African art, and the world's largest collection of the work of John Denison Crocker (1822-1907), a Norwich-raised landscape painter, who took the city's industrial age as his main inspiration and source material. While Crocker is not as famous or as celebrated as some of his contemporaries, and is looked down on by some museum curators, Zoë says there is local pride in displaying his work. "I definitely don't sneer at him. I think No. 1, he was a really terrific painter, and No. 2, without him we wouldn't have these scenes of what the Thames [River] looked like," Zoë says.

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Christiane Noll is set to perform in the musical *Next to Normal*.

Crazy For You

The last time Christiane Noll played a powerful maternal part it was as the goodness-filled Mother in *Ragtime*. But for the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Next to Normal*, the Tony-nominated actor is playing a mom with troubling issues: bi-polar ones. “You have to really reach down for this role,” she says of the part she will be playing during the run at Hartford’s TheaterWorks March 23 to April 30. (It’s the largest musical endeavor the theater has yet undertaken.)

Though not a “method” actor, Noll, whose other Broadway credits include

Jekyll & Hyde and *Chaplin*, says this role is such an intense one “and there’s always the fear that you’ll go down a long dark tunnel and not come back.” But she’s going to be just fine, she tells me — and reassures her family back in New York. “My heart breaks more for my character’s family than for her,” she says. “She’s just trying to figure out where she is and she’s trying her best to face it.” But the effect it has on those around her, she says, makes the show so deeply affecting.

theaterworkshartford.org

▶ WOMEN TROUBLE

And speaking of family dynamics Oh, that Eugene O’Neill and his turbulent relations with women, his children, his family, well, almost everyone. That dramatic life is detailed — especially in his relations with his mother, lovers and three wives — in a new book by Arthur and Barbara Gelb, *By*

Women Possessed: A Life of Eugene O’Neill.

The pair’s third biography of the four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author — and the only American playwright to earn the Nobel Prize in literature — is an intimate look at O’Neill, beginning with his boyhood in New London, where he spent his summers, to his death in 1953 and what happens after with



Arthur and Barbara Gelb GELB PERSONAL COLLECTION

his erratic widow.

I asked Barbara Gelb, who spent more than six decades writing about O’Neill with her husband, who died in 2014 at the age of 90, what productions of O’Neill’s play were her favorites?

“The original production of *Long Day’s Journey Into Night* with Frederic March and Jason Robards Jr.,” she says without missing a beat. (That’s the one set at Monte Cristo Cottage, his family’s summer home in New London.) Another favorite is the 2015 New York production of *The Iceman Cometh* with Nathan Lane as Hickey and Brian Dennehy as Larry Slade.

“I think O’Neill would have liked those productions,” she says, “though you could never do a production the way he originally planned.”

Barbara Gelb died on Feb. 9, shortly after this interview. She was 91.

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SHINING BRIGHT

James Lecesne's solo show — *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* — is timely, he says. Though based on his 2007 novel of a joyful boy who doesn't always fit in with those around him, the show connects with headlines about bullying.

"It's about a kid who was unusual and vivacious and flamboyant and kind-of-not gay — because he was too young to be gay — but he probably exhibited some of those stereotypical signs. It's about what happens when he comes to a town that was not used to his over-the-top behavior."

In the play, his young character "brings out the best of people, and the worst," Lecesne says. He is bringing the show to Hartford Stage for a March 30-April 23 run.

Because of Lecesne's work with the Trevor Project — a nonprofit organization focused on suicide-prevention efforts among LGBT youths — he's always been aware that there are young kids out there who are challenging the idea of what "normal" is. "They go about their lives feeling fabulous and realizing one day it's suddenly not OK because your joyfulness is bothering some people in some way."

Lecesne wants to have conversations with adults "about how do we look out for these kids and make their lives safe. It's all

well and good to tell people to be yourself and that it's going to get better, but we have a responsibility to actually look after them while they are discovering who they are. The play touches on that stuff, not in a preachy way, but hopefully in an entertaining way."

hartfordstage.org



James Lecesne stars in *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*. PHOTO BY MATTHEW MURPHY

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perkinsj@gunnery.org



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COME FROM AWAY

Sue Frost, an Old Lyme resident and Tony Award-winning producer of Broadway's *Memphis*, is at it again with a show that is especially challenging:

Come From Away, a musical rooted in 9/11.

Yes, "the 9/11 musical," but it's not what you think.

Though the story takes place on the morning of the terrorist attacks, it is centered on 38 planes which were re-routed to Gander, Newfoundland, because of fear of more terrorist attacks on U.S. flights. The small Canadian town with a large airfield welcomed the more than 6,500 stunned passengers who arrived unsure of what exactly was going on and how long they would remain there.

Frost says the popularity of other musicals with unusual or challenging topics, such as *Dear Evan Hansen* and yes, *Next to Normal*, shows there's an audience for her show. "Once people see it, the word of mouth becomes very strong."

Frost also says folks might just be in the mood for a story about nice people behaving well and taking care of each other. "I think people are hungry for that."



Sue Frost

DID YOU KNOW...?

... Tony Award winner Alan Cumming (*Cabaret*, Eli on TV's *The Good Wife*) will perform his cabaret act at Long Wharf Theatre's annual gala June 5.

... director-playwright-artistic director Emily Mann will be "in conversation" with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Quiara Alegria Hudes (*Water By the Spoonful*) at Wesleyan University on March 29 at 7 p.m. at Memorial Chapel. Free.

... there are theater treasures (from Langston Hughes, *The Emperor Jones*, Eubie Blake, Josephine Baker) to be found at the new, building-wide exhibition *Gather Out of Star-Dust: The Harlem Renaissance & the Beinecke Library*. The free exhibit at Yale continues through April 17.

... Jordyn DiNatale, who is in the world premiere of *Napoli, Brooklyn* at Long Wharf Theatre through March 12, is from East Haven. (The show then moves off-Broadway for its New York bow.)

Frank Rizzo has covered the arts-entertainment scene in Connecticut since disco reigned in the '70s, including nearly 34 years writing for the Hartford Courant. Email him at FrRiz@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter@ShowRiz.

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How to Find the Right Summer Camp

Kids know exactly what they want in a sleepover summer camp.

They can spend a week or two sailing, horseback riding, learning how to become a recording engineer, playing chess or deep-diving into computer programming training. Or maybe they're traditionalists who want to sit around with their friends — just as their parents did as kids — making butterflies out of toilet-paper rolls while singing “John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt” in front of a campfire.

Let them figure it out. Mom and Dad, your job is to make sure the camp is legit, that it follows state and industry standards, knows how to administer your child's medications, has not failed any recent inspections, has resolved any complaints and meets minimum counselor-to-camper ratios.

“My advice for parents looking for a camp is that they should do their research,” says Keith Garbart, president of the Connecticut Camping Association, a nonprofit that advocates good camping practices in the state.

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood now oversees the state's 67 licensed residential camps (and 365 licensed day camps), assuming the state Department of Public Health's former role.

Here are a few things parents of prospective campers should know:

LICENSING

The state outlines statutes and regulations for licensing youth camps in an exhaustive 22-page document (read it, if you dare, at ct.gov/oec) covering everything from water supply and urinals to food-dispensing facilities and emergency medical care.

Every youth camp in the state requires a license. To check a license, visit the state's License Lookup site (elicense.ct.gov/lookup/lookup.aspx) or call either 860-509-8045 or 800-282-6063. Besides information on the camp's license status, you can also check the dates of a camp's annual inspection. Unfortunately, the state does not list the results of those inspections. It directs parents, oddly, to the camps for disclosure. “Efforts are currently underway to make this information available on an enhanced site,” says Debra Johnson, the Office of Early Childhood's licensing director. “Parents are encouraged



to engage in conversations with camp personnel when choosing a camp for their child. Parents should feel free to ask a camp for a copy of their most recent licensing inspection.”

The state checks camp directors for criminal history, including the sex offender registry. It does not screen counselors. Ask the camp about its counselors' ages, training and the number of returnees.

Check the counselor-to-camper ratio. Residential camps must have at least one staff member for every six children under age 8 and one staffer for every eight children over age 8.

ACCREDITATION

The American Camp Association (acacamps.org), a national nonprofit group, provides accreditation to more than 3,600 camps using standards that often exceed the minimum requirements of state regulations. The association maintains a searchable database of camps by state, interests, religion, gender, location (as in waterfront) and for children with disabilities. Accreditation is voluntary. The association does not have the power of the state, so it cannot close or penalize a camp that does not meet its standards.

The Connecticut Camping Association (ctcamps.org) also maintains a list of summer youth camps and camp fairs. The association can help parents who are uncertain about how to choose a camp, too.

First-timers should know that residential camps in Connecticut typically cost \$750 to \$1,000 a week, with some higher.

“The more desirable camps will start filling sooner than later,” says Garbart, who is also the camp director at Winding Trails in Farmington, a day camp, “and some may already have waitlists. There are a lot of great camps in Connecticut and in New England, so parents should not give up just because the camp they may want does not have availability.”

MEDICATION

Campers who need help administering medication can get it from a professional (such as a physician or advanced-practice medical nurse) or a trained but unlicensed camp staff member. Camps with 250 or more campers are required to have a registered nurse direct onsite health care.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Camp Horizons (horizonsct.org/camp-horizons) in Windham is one of 17 camps — of all types — for people with developmental disabilities. Camp Horizons accepts campers from ages 8 to 39, with those 40 and over eligible for the camp's masters program.

As a reference, check the State Education Resource Center of Connecticut's directory of summer camps and programs (the 2016 edition is available at ctserc.org). But parents should look beyond Connecticut for variety, starting with the Federation For Children with Special Needs' camp database (fcsn.org/resource-index/camps).

These camps can be particularly generous in accepting out-of-staters. Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck (campapaquatuck.com) has served Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island from the same spot in Center Moriches, New York, since 1946. Yet, says camp director Bridget Costello, “We are happy to accommodate campers from around the globe.”

Costello says up to 6 percent of its campers are from out of state. (A typical session, at \$975 per week, includes no more than 50 campers, but usually closer to 42 or 43, says Costello.)

“There's a camp for everyone,” says Garbart. “It's just a matter of finding the right fit.”

Send your consumer complaints, concerns and tips to CONNsumer@connecticutmag.com.

IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM



Francis William Topham (1808-77), *Feeding Chickens*, 1848, watercolor on paper, 15.75 x 11.42 in.

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ADMISSION IS FREE

Wednesday

10 AM to 5 PM

Thursday

10 AM to 7 PM

Friday & Saturday

10 AM to 5 PM

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3011 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, Connecticut
For museum information,
please visit www.ighm.org
or call 203-582-6500

Quinnipiac

Our IRISH SOUL

BY MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY

THE STORY OF
HOW IRELAND'S
IMMIGRANTS HELPED
BUILD CONNECTICUT,
AND HOW THE
ISLAND AND OUR
STATE REMAIN
LINKED TO THIS DAY



*Statistic I &
Statistic II*,
2010, by Rowan
Gillespie, on
display at
Ireland's Great
Hunger Museum
at Quinnipiac
University in
Hamden.
PHOTO BY
PETER HVIZDAK

AMONG THE MANY people we lost in 2016, Tom Hayden was one whose death didn't quite register among the political leaders, musicians and actors. A student radical in the 1960s, the Michigan-born Hayden was also a keen historian and scholar of the history of Irish America.

His 2003 book *Irish on the Inside: In Search of the Soul of Irish-America* called for Irish Americans to "reappraise" their history — as a poor, "foreign" people who came to the U.S. fleeing violence and starvation, hoping for a better life, and who were met with hostility when they got here. That understanding, Hayden argues, would allow Irish Americans to connect with others facing similar struggles today. Hayden contends that the Irish-American experience is one of forgetting: forgetting Ireland (or remembering it only as a "theme park") and forgetting how hostile a place America was.

So, this St. Patrick's Day, let us remember. As the streets of our towns and cities fill with parades, and the bars fill with green beer and plastic shamrocks, let's take a moment to remember the history of the links between Ireland and Connecticut.

THE EARLIEST IRISH

According to Neil Hogan of the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society, the first recorded Irish people in the state date back to the early 1600s, when several were brought to Connecticut as indentured servants. In 1750, Matthew Lyon, a native of County Wicklow, was brought to Woodbury as the indentured servant of a wealthy merchant. After his indenture he moved to Vermont, where he joined the Green Mountain Boys under the command of Ethan Allen and fought in the Revolutionary War. When Irish revolutionaries back home, inspired by the American and French revolutions, organized the Society of United Irishmen in Dublin and Belfast to agitate and organize for an uprising to achieve independence from Britain, Lyon was one of the founders of the American Society of United Irishmen.

CANAL DIGGERS

The first discernible wave of immigration came in the early 1800s. Throughout the United States, the Irish dug. They dug canals in Erie, New York, and in New Orleans. Connecticut had its own versions: the Farmington Canal and the smaller Windsor Locks Canal, which was largely dug by Irish laborers in the 1820s. The Farmington Canal,

which opened in 1828, would for a brief period become a vital part of the growing Connecticut economy. Writing for ConnecticutHistory.org, historian Richard DeLuca notes that "apples, butter, cider and wood flowed southward to New Haven, imports such as coffee, flour, hides, molasses, salt and sugar headed to towns upstream." The canal would eventually prove to be too much of a loss-operator for its investors, and the growth of the emerging railroad economy would render it useless by the 1840s. In the fall of 2016, The Connecticut Irish American Historical Society and the Knights of Columbus gathered in Cheshire to unveil a new sign on what is now a walking trail, celebrating the contributions of Irish workers.

AN GORTA MÓR

While Irish immigration to the U.S. had previously been something of a trickle, the famine of the 1840s and '50s would change everything, both in this country and back in Ireland. The Irish-language name for the famine — An Gorta Mór, or "The Great Hunger" — reveals more truth than the more commonly known Potato Famine term used in English. The starvation and disease that cut the population of Ireland by roughly 25 percent — the population has still not entirely recovered today — was as much a product of Victorian economics and population engineering as the potato blight. John Mitchel, the political agitator who was deported to Australia, put it bluntly when he wrote "the





Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University in Hamden. Above, *Gorta* (previously known as *Burying the Child*), 1946, by Lilian Lucy Davidson. PHOTOS BY PETER HVIZDAK

Almighty, indeed, sent the potato blight, but the English created the famine.”

Mitchel’s quote is emblazoned on a video screen in Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum in Hamden, which is affiliated with Quinnipiac University. Because of the massive influx of immigrants — Connecticut’s Irish population exploded from 10 percent of the people in the state in 1850 to 25 percent in 1870 — the famine is in many ways the founding moment of Irish America.

More than a standard history museum, Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum is a place of the memory and representation of the famine, and of the broader idea of suffering. The museum asks difficult questions, rather than providing easy answers. How do we conceive of suffering?

How do we remember devastation? The museum, says Executive Director Grace Brady, is “trying to tell the long story. You can’t survive on just telling the seven-year story [of the famine from 1845-1852].”

The museum itself, housed in a nondescript former public library building on Whitney Avenue, is designed as an expression of the famine story. First, the museum-goer enters a floor situated slightly below ground, into a low-ceiling, dimly lit space resembling a basement. The low light and cramped confines are gestures toward the conditions in which many Irish came to the country, cramped below deck in the disease-ridden vessels colloquially known as “coffin ships.” The profoundly affecting museum has also published a wealth of

research and scholarship on the famine through its *Famine Folios* series.

Brady says the mission of the museum is two-fold. “The first part is the obvious: to teach people about the full story of the Great Hunger ... not just about the potato crop, but that there was neglect by the government,” she says. “The second part of the mission is to showcase great Irish visual art, Irish and Irish American. Because nowhere anywhere is there a museum of this type that focuses on the story, and how to tell it visually,” she says.

One of the most arresting pieces in the museum’s collection is the sculpture *Surplus People* (2010-11) by Kieran Tuohy. It depicts a starving family, their forms ethereal and ghostlike, their faces haunting. Made from ancient oak, wood pulled from Irish bogs that have preserved its form, *Surplus People* evokes the long history — embedded in landscape — that defines the Irish experience. In his poem *Bogland*, Seamus Heaney identifies the Irish inclination to delve deeper into the self, in opposition to the American experience to drive West and settle the land:

*They’ll never dig coal here,
Only the waterlogged trunks
Of great firs, soft as pulp.
Our pioneers keep striking
Inwards and downwards*

The museum also features an exhibit on the travels of Elihu Burritt, a New Britain blacksmith who went to Ireland during the famine and delivered to American readers some of the most harrowing accounts of what he saw there. Burritt is widely credited as bringing the story of the famine to Americans.

THE CIVIL WAR

Many of the Irish who fled starvation to come to Connecticut would find themselves caught up in the violence of the Civil War. While the famous “Fighting 69th,” the mostly Irish regiment from New York, is more well known, Connecticut had its own version. The Ninth Connecticut Infantry Regiment was formed in 1861, and led by Col. Thomas Cahill of New Haven. Attached to Gen. Benjamin Butler’s Army of the Gulf, they sailed from Boston Harbor for Mississippi, where the regiment saw action at Pass Christian. The Ninth Connecticut — with soldiers from counties Kerry, Cavan and Antrim — became the first Union regiment to capture Confederate colors.

After securing their position at Pass Christian, they were sent to New Orleans, which had already fallen to Union forces,

and eventually on to the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg. Just like in decades before, these Irish Nutmeggers dug. In this case, commerce was not their purpose. Rather, the Ninth Connecticut was tasked with digging a canal to divert the Mississippi River in an attempt to bypass Vicksburg and win control of the river.

In 1903, representatives from 28 states from both sides of the Mason-

Dixon Line were invited to participate in the creation of a monuments park.

Connecticut was snubbed, and so veterans and others interested in remembering the contributions of the Ninth Connecticut set about creating their own monument in New Haven, which still

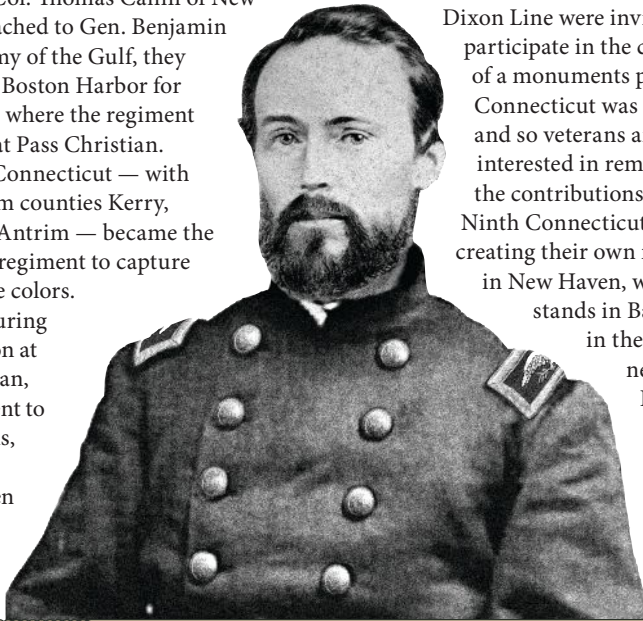
stands in Bayview Park in the City Point neighborhood.

In 2008, a historical wrong was righted when Civil War

enthusiasts gathered in the Vicksburg National Military Park to unveil a granite statue commemorating the canal dug by the Ninth.

In an account from Lt. Col. John Healy, who served with the regiment, the Connecticut Irish soldiers were much more poorly equipped than their comrades in the 26th Massachusetts regiment. “The men were still wretchedly clad, and it was midwinter. Nearly half of them were without shoes and as many more without shirts; several had no coats or blankets. ... The Twenty-sixth Massachusetts was equipped with warm blankets, ample tents, and two uniform suits of clothing per man; and to them the members of the Ninth furnished a contrast which would have been amusing if it were not humiliating,” Healy wrote.

After the war, James Mullen, a veteran of the Ninth Connecticut, would go on to become fire commissioner in the city of New Haven, and one of the original members of the Knights of Columbus. Mullen is buried in St. Lawrence Cemetery in West Haven. According to local historian Robert Larkin, Mullen is credited with originating the ceremonial regalia worn by Knights of Columbus members.



Col. Thomas Cahill PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB LARKIN

CONNOLLY COMES

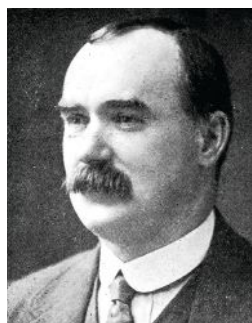
In 1902, Irish labor leader and revolutionary James Connolly came to Hartford on his speaking tour of the U.S. As Hartford historian and Connecticut labor activist Steve Thornton notes in his history of the International Workers of the World in Connecticut, the city had just elected the Irish American Ignatius Sullivan as its mayor. Having worked in a paper mill as a 10-year-old, Sullivan later became involved in organizing a number of strikes for the city’s workers. While no record survives of what Connolly said at Hartford’s

Germania Hall in September 1902, we know his speech was titled “Home Rule and Socialism,” and Connolly would later write in an Irish newspaper that “the cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour. The two cannot be dis severed.” Connolly would return to Connecticut in 1908, where, as noted by Neil Hogan of the Irish American Historical Society, he “ran afoul of the law when he set up his stand and tried to lecture on socialism on Main Street in Bridgeport.”

In 1916, Connolly would lead the Easter Rising in Dublin, regarded as the first

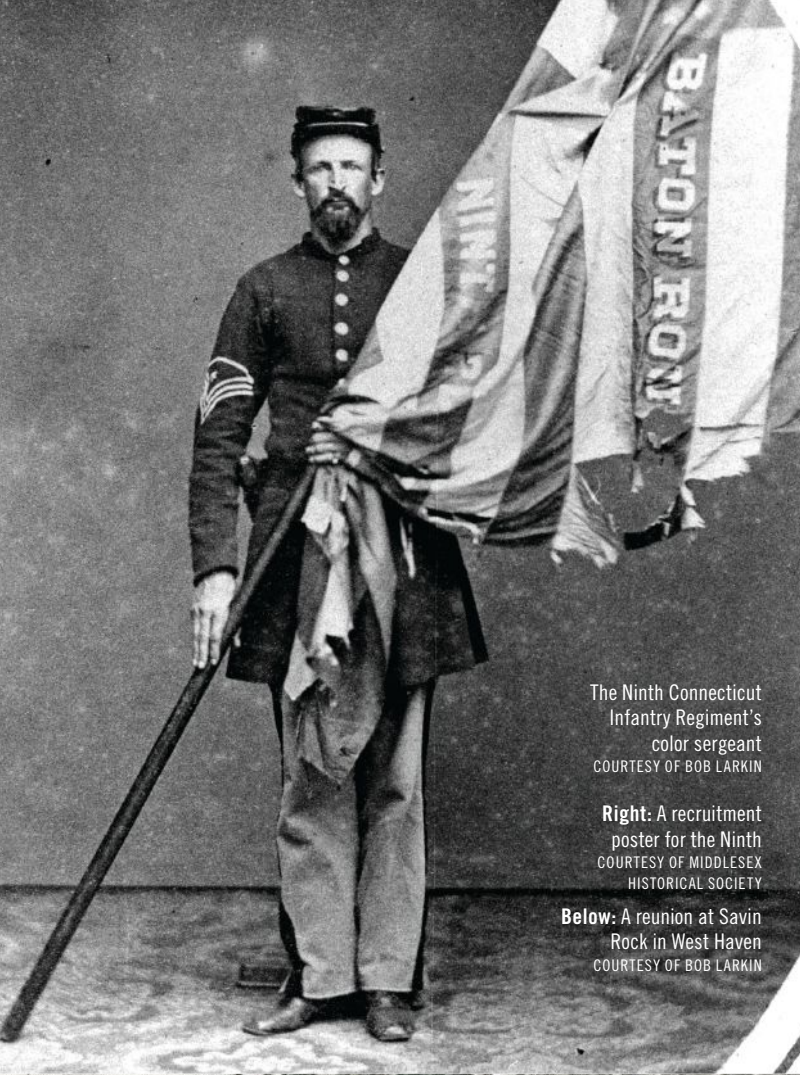
blow in the fight for Irish independence, eventually culminating in the partition of the island in 1921. Wounded in the fighting, Connolly was executed by British firing squad while tied to a chair in Dublin’s Kilmainham Gaol.

This phase of the early 20th century was also a period of great social upheaval stateside. Among the many Irish-American radicals with ties to Connecticut, one state woman shines through. The Hartford-born Catherine Flanagan, the daughter of Irish immigrants, spent 30 days in jail after being arrested at a protest for women’s suffrage in Washington in 1917. In addition to her fight for the vote for women, she would campaign across the U.S. for the recognition of the Irish Republic by the American government. Of this period in Irish history and the links between Connecticut and Ireland, Hogan says, “I think it’s probably less known than it should be. There are some Irish who are very rabid about Irish history and there are some that have been here a long time, and they aren’t as enthusiastic about it or as interested in it. Overall, probably not as much as I would like to see people interested in it.” Hogan is the editor of *Shanachie*, the newsletter of the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society, as well as the author of the 2016 book *From a Land Beyond the Wave: Connecticut’s Irish Rebels, 1798-1916*.



Above: James Connolly VIA WIKIMEDIA

Right: Suffragettes Catherine Flanagan (in all white) and Madeleine Watson are arrested as they picket the White House, 1917. VIA THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



The Ninth Connecticut
Infantry Regiment's
color sergeant
COURTESY OF BOB LARKIN

Right: A recruitment
poster for the Ninth
COURTESY OF MIDDLESEX
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Below: A reunion at Savin
Rock in West Haven
COURTESY OF BOB LARKIN

Forward the 9th!



9th Regiment IRISH VOLUNTEERS,

COL. T. W. CAHILL,

This destined to be gallant Regi-
ment, organized under the auspices of His Excellency, the Governor of
this State, to be Officered by Irishmen throughout, is now rapidly filling
up. The Regiment is now in Camp at New-Haven, and is nearly full.
All persons wishing to join can receive further information by
calling at the Head-Quarters.

WILLIAMS' HALL, PORTLAND.

This is a State Regiment, and the Soldiers receive all the pay voted by
the last Legislature.
Portland, Oct. 24th, '61



THE TROUBLES

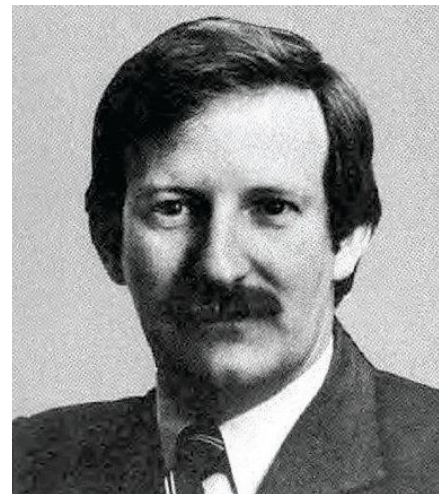
The formation of two states on the island of Ireland, one a sovereign Irish republic comprising 26 counties, and the other a statelet still ruled by Britain comprising the six northeastern counties of the island, would lead to yet more bloodshed and suffering on the island. Decades of discriminatory and brutal rule over the Catholic, Irish nationalist minority by the Protestant-Unionist majority in the North would explode into a civil rights movement in the late 1960s. What escalated into open warfare in the early 1970s would last for some 30 years of ethnic and political conflict — known as The Troubles — between Irish-Republican Catholic communities, British-Loyalist Protestant communities, the British Army and various paramilitaries. Connecticut, too, would play a role in both the war and the peace.

Richard Lawlor, a Hartford attorney, former state representative and the vice-chairman of Irish Northern Aid (known as Noraid), was instrumental in generating American support for Irish Republicans throughout The Troubles. The organization raised money to send to the widows and families of imprisoned and killed Irish Republican Army fighters. During The Troubles and today, many have contended that Noraid money was, instead, used to buy IRA weapons when it got to the island. Lawlor — who made his first trip to Northern Ireland during the 1981 hunger

“The British government had a position that this was an internal British matter, that there’s no role for the U.S. And the successive U.S. administrations, and certainly the State Department, had acquiesced in that role for many, many years,” Lawlor says. “And there were a number of people, of us, who thought that — given what Irish people had contributed to America, and our philosophy of government and democracy — that we owed it to them to become involved to help them and to try to oppose British propaganda.”

After years of lobbying and pressuring American politicians, the U.S. State Department granted a U.S. visa in 1994 to Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Féin, widely understood as the political wing of the IRA. In the 1990s, during what we now know as the early stages of the peace process (which would result in the historic Good Friday Agreement of 1998), Connecticut politicians were instrumental in tying together the various strands of Irish-American political thought into a cohesive political lobby.

One of the most important figures in this story is Bruce Morrison, a three-time U.S. Representative from Connecticut’s Third District. According to the 2016 book *Peacerunner* by New Haven lawyer Penn Rhodeen, Morrison was convinced to dive headfirst into Northern Irish politics by two events. In 1987, Morrison visited the Northern Irish city of Derry, and in a particularly tense moment, was searched and



Bruce Morrison PHOTO VIA WIKIMEDIA

with Lawlor, because of his IRA sympathies, but Morrison found Lawlor persuasive and joined the committee. Morrison “was happier tackling serious questions instead of wondering which green tie to wear on St. Patrick’s Day,” Rhodeen writes.

Throughout the 1990s, Morrison acted as a key intermediary between the Irish Republican movement and the Clinton White House, in a process that would lead to an IRA ceasefire and eventually bring Sinn Féin into government with Unionists.

In 1997, in a lasting gesture to the relationship between Connecticut and Irish Republicanism, Lawlor and other members of the Irish-American community unveiled a memorial to Bobby Sands, the first of the 10 hunger-strikers to die. The memorial — a stone Celtic cross inscribed with the Irish phrase “*Tiocfaidh ár lá*” (“our day will come”) at the corner of Maple Avenue and Freeman Street in Hartford’s South End — remains one of the few memorials to Bobby Sands in the world outside of Ireland, the others being in Havana, Paris and Tehran.

Asked why Hartford played such an outsized role in The Troubles and the Peace Process, Lawlor says the Irish-American community in Hartford was unique. “We had a particularly active unit [of Noraid] here, and everybody kind of stayed together. The Irish, they say that once you form an organization, the first item on the agenda is the split, but we didn’t have that. We didn’t have that, everybody stuck together,” Lawlor says.

Today, almost 19 years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and centuries after the first Irish immigrants came to Connecticut, there is still traffic between the two places. In the fall of 2016, Irish airline Aer Lingus commenced a direct flight from Bradley Airport to Dublin, and Irish-American community centers across the state continue to keep alive a sense of Irish identity.

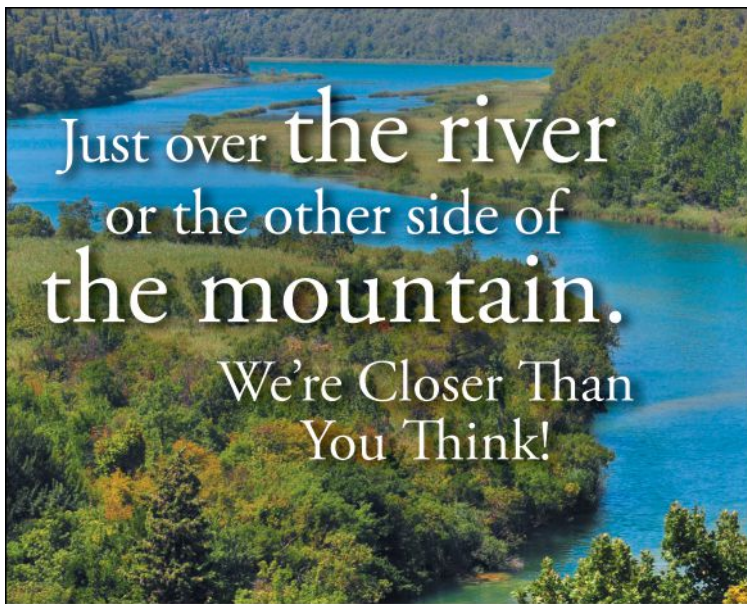
“There were a number of people who thought that — given what Irish people had contributed to America, and our philosophy of government and democracy — that we owed it to them to become involved to help them and to try to oppose British propaganda.”

strikes, when 10 Republican prisoners died during a fast demanding political status in Long Kesh prison — today recalls “the complete military presence and militarization of the North. The border was very well armed. There was British troops everywhere, British forts everywhere.”

From Lawlor’s perspective, it took the advocacy and engagement of the Irish-American community by groups like Noraid to shift the American government toward advocating for negotiations between the British and Irish governments, Unionists and Irish Republicans in hopes of ending decades of violent impasse.

interrogated at gunpoint by the notoriously sectarian Royal Ulster Constabulary, the police force of the Northern Irish state. The moment left a lasting impression on Morrison, and pushed him toward action.

Another key moment came when Lawlor asked Morrison to join the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, the congressional grouping which favored Irish unification and had ties to Noraid. The committee was more avowedly political than the more mainstream Friends of Ireland, whose “major concerns seemed to revolve around St Patrick’s Day,” Rhodeen writes. Morrison’s staff advised him not to meet



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|travel|

CATHEDRAL PINES

Cornwall

Until you've seen one with your own eyes, and walked around in one, it's difficult to convey the grandeur of an old-growth forest. To walk amid ancient trees is to see a landscape now mostly gone to centuries of logging, and to understand why some have chained themselves to trees to stop them being cut down. One of the last sites of old-growth forest in New England is in Cornwall, known as Cathedral Pines. The 42-acre plot has been owned by The Nature Conservancy since 1967, when it was donated by a family who had originally bought the land in 1883 to save it from logging. While tornadoes in 1989 tragically wrecked a large part of the preserve, the pines that still stand are beautiful to behold.

CATHEDRAL PINES, CORNWALL

J.G. COLEMAN

Hidden Connecticut

BY ERIK OFGANG, MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY AND ALBERT YURAVICH

Ours may be a small state, but when it comes to out-of-the-way, overlooked or off-the-beaten path attractions, it has more than its fair share of offerings. From small museums with mind-boggling holdings to stunning parks and a breathtaking waterfall, we're constantly amazed at the amount of wonderful places that fly under the radar in our state. In the list that follows, we've highlighted some of these destinations. If we've missed your favorite hidden gem, let us know and we'll try to visit it soon.

KOUROS SCULPTURE CENTER

Ridgefield

The heart and soul of this place is the outdoor sculpture garden, where environmental work by established as well as emerging sculptors has been the focus for more than 20 years. The sculptures on exhibit span a variety of mediums and styles, and were created by 50 artists. Many interact with the rural backdrop of sloping fields, patios and gardens. Guests will find works like Hans van de Bovenkamp's *Dance*, a 10-foot-high monolith made in 1999 of stainless steel. Some sculptures are in open fields, others are tucked into intimate corners, or under the boughs of nearby trees, and are designed to utilize the topography and the hourly changes of light and shadow. In addition, there are paintings, photographs and small sculptures on exhibit indoors.

203-438-7636, kourosgallery.com

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF TORT LAW

Winsted

It has a name that could scare away even the most ardent seeker of out-of-the-way cultural attractions. But don't be fooled; the Museum of Tort Law provides a dynamic and fascinating celebration of the American legal system. Founded in 2015 by Ralph Nader, a native of Winsted, it is a celebration of tort law (the law of compensation for wrongfully inflicted injuries) and tells the story of some of America's most important lawsuits, framing this litigation in David-vs.-Goliath terms. Comic book-esque illustrations depict legal battles with cigarette companies, toy manufacturers and even McDonald's (yes, the museum teaches us, the coffee really *was* too hot). The museum's centerpiece is a bright red Corvair, the car that Nader famously exposed as "unsafe at any speed."

860-379-0505, tortmuseum.org

FORT GRISWOLD

Groton

If you need another reason to hate Benedict Arnold, a visit here will do it. In 1781, Arnold, an American general who famously switched to the British side, led a raid on New London and Groton that resulted in the massacre of more than 80 troops at this fort across the Thames River in Groton. There is a memorial to these fallen soldiers, and guests can wander at will through the remains of the structure, which is among the best examples of a Revolutionary War fort still in existence. The Ebenezer Avery House, which sheltered the wounded after the battle, is also on the grounds. The site is part of the Thames River Heritage Park, which connects the fort with City Pier in New London and Fort Trumbull across the river by means of a water ferry running seasonally Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

fortgriswold.org

KOUROS SCULPTURE CENTER, RIDGEFIELD



Inquire Within by Bill Barrett, welded bronze, 54 x 60 x 48 inches.

FORT GRISWOLD, GROTON





CONNECTICUT AIR & SPACE CENTER, STRATFORD

GENE MADARA/CONNECTICUT AIR & SPACE CENTER

CONNECTICUT AIR & SPACE CENTER

Stratford

Housed within a former aerospace factory and across the street from Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport, the Connecticut Air & Space Center has the feel of a top-secret site. The property is owned by the federal government. As a result, people under age 18 are not permitted on the site, and all visitors must stop by a security building at 550 Main St., around the corner from the museum, for a quick safety briefing before being allowed access (don't worry, it's safe!). Once they get "clearance," guests are rewarded with an engrossing immersion in Connecticut's rich aerospace history: Igor Sikorsky developed the helicopter across the street, Charles Lindbergh kept his plane nearby for a time, a line of flying saucer-like planes were briefly planned in Stratford. And, of course, Gustave Whitehead — at least according to any aviation historians in Connecticut worth their salt — beat the Wright brothers to the air. This history comes alive thanks to the showstopping restorations of many historic aircraft featured at the center. Last May, the center held a groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of restoration on the historic Curtiss Hangar, across the street from the center. Once this restoration is complete, the center will further expand its holdings and, hopefully, its visibility. 203-380-1400, cascstratford.wordpress.com

INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

Washington

Since forming in 1975, the Institute for American Indian Studies — formerly the American Indian Archaeological Institute — has been steadfast in its devotion to recovering New England's once-largely-unknown indigenous history, surveying or excavating more than 500 sites. The Institute's accomplishments include the discovery of a 10,000-year-old camp site in Washington, the earliest known archaeological site in the state. Along the

way the organization has been equally steadfast in its efforts to share this history with engrossing, hands-on exhibits. The institute is home to a replicated Algonkian village, a simulated archaeological site, nature trails and plenty more indoor and outdoor exhibits. The primary exhibit, *Quinnnetukut: Our Homeland, Our Story*, follows the fascinating 10,000-year saga of Connecticut's Native American peoples from the distant past to today. 860-868-0518, iaismuseum.org

CONNECTICUT RIVER MUSEUM

Essex

Dedicated to New England's great river, the museum is housed in an 1878 Steamboat Dock building and along its surrounding docks. Guests can take an "art walk" and trace the river's 410-mile course from northern New Hampshire to Long Island Sound; climb aboard a replica of the *Turtle*, the world's first submarine used during the American Revolution; learn about the 1814 British raid on Essex; follow the historic evolution of steamboats and wooden ships; and even explore the river

by sail by booking an afternoon or sunset cruise on the schooner *Mary E*, from June through October. Though well known among Connecticut River and maritime enthusiasts, this excellent museum is too often overlooked.

860-767-8269, ctrivermuseum.org

FAIRY DOORS, PUTNAM



COURTESY OF MYSTIC COUNTRY

FAIRY DOORS

Putnam

Keep your eyes peeled in Putnam for these tiny but intricate gateways to the "fairy world." Along the town's Main Street there are 12 little doors hidden in plain sight. Each door represents one of six different American cities — New York, Chicago, Boston, Seattle, Nashville and New Orleans. They range in style from the "Horseshoe Door" of Nashville to the "Day of the Dead Door" inspired by New Orleans. Visitors can look under each nook and cranny to find them all and check them off a downloadable door guide. Last year, Putnam's First Fridays summer concert series celebrated each of the cities honored by the various doors.

ctvisit.com/articles/guide-putnams-fairy-doors



INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES, WASHINGTON



PUTNAM MEMORIAL STATE PARK, REDDING

PUTNAM MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Redding

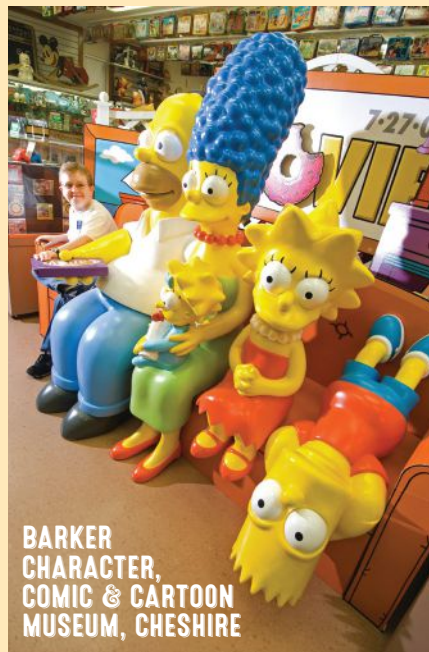
Billed as “Connecticut’s Valley Forge,” Putnam Memorial State Park is the oldest state park in Connecticut. It is located on the site of the winter encampment of Gen. Israel Putnam’s Continental troops, who stayed on the grounds from December 1778 to May 1779. Guests can learn more about this Revolutionary history and the site’s archaeological surveys at the visitor center, museum and reconstructed camp buildings or by following in the footsteps of those who fought to form this country, on an interpretive trail. Beyond the history, visitors can enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking trails, ice skating in the winter and pond fishing in the warmer months.

203-938-2357, putnampark.org

MATTATUCK MUSEUM

Waterbury

In 2013, 215 years after his death, the remains of a Waterbury man named Fortune were laid to rest. A slave during his life, Fortune was considered the property of Dr. Preserved Porter, who, after Fortune’s death and without the man’s consent, preserved his skeleton for scientific study. After being passed down in the Porter family for several generations, Fortune’s remains were donated to the Mattatuck



BARKER CHARACTER, COMIC & CARTOON MUSEUM, CHESHIRE

Museum. Beginning in the 1990s, the museum and the African American History Project, a community advisory panel, investigated Fortune’s story. After learning his history, they organized his long-overdue burial, which achieved national attention. Fortune’s story is one of the many bits of hidden history that can be discovered at the Mattatuck Museum, a rich tapestry

of cultural and artistic heritage focused on the Naugatuck Valley and the artists of Connecticut. Its art galleries display the work of American masters associated with Connecticut, including Anni Albers, Alexander Calder and Frederic Church. The institution presents 25 changing exhibitions every year featuring past and contemporary artists. It is also home to a button gallery displaying 10,000 miniature works of art collected from around the globe, donated by the Waterbury Companies (formerly the Waterbury Button Co.).

203-753-0381, mattmuseum.org

CONNECTICUT MUSEUM OF MINING & MINERAL SCIENCE

Kent

Before the discovery of iron in Pennsylvania, Connecticut was one of the main producers of the metal in the country. As this museum’s description states: “The Litchfield Hills are dotted with the ghosts of our early iron industry, and the Mining Museum chronicles its ascendancy.” Run by the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association, the museum houses one of the most extensive collections of Connecticut minerals on display in the state. Guests can also view a historic steam engine, and wander over to Kent’s blast furnace, which was once an important part of the iron-producing industry in the region. The museum shares an entrance with the state-run Eric Sloane Museum, which pays striking homage to the legendary landscape painter, and is a hidden gem in its own right.

ctamachinery.com

BARKER CHARACTER, COMIC & CARTOON MUSEUM

Cheshire

Where in Connecticut can you find the Lone Ranger, Betty Boop, Bart Simpson, Howdy Doody, Lassie and Superman? You’ll find all of them, and more, at the Barker museum, home to 80,000 pieces of pop culture memorabilia that tell the ultimate toy story of America. All the items were purchased by Herb and Gloria Barker, who began their collection in 1949, picking up collectibles at places like tag sales and thrift shops. With two floors filled with items like Monkees bobbleheads, *Planet of the Apes* lunchboxes and an 8-foot Incredible Hulk statue, you can find just about any toy you can imagine. But it’s not all fun and games. At its core, the Barker museum is a place of history, where the young and the young at heart can learn about American life in years gone by. In fact, the oldest toy is a cast-iron elephant ramp walker, made in 1873 by the Ives Co. in Bridgeport.

203-272-2357, barkermuseum.com



BIGELOW HOLLOW STATE PARK, UNION

SARAH L. HAMBY

BIGELOW HOLLOW STATE PARK

Union

This jewel of our park system, way up in the northeast corner and “hidden” away in the 9,000-acre Nipmuck State Forest, has a lot to keep you occupied. This time of year, you might still have some time for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. But we think it’s during the warmer months that this park truly shines. Miles of hiking trails will keep your activity tracker on overdrive. Boating and fishing are a blast in the Mashapaug Pond, which is actually a 300-acre lake that touches the Massachusetts state line. This is one of the great places to be in the state for fall foliage, as the densely packed trees offer a fiery canvas, while the lake waters provide a beautiful mirrored surface. But also be mindful of the wondrous array of wildlife, including the occasional bobcat, moose and bear. Oh, my! 860-684-3430, ct.gov/deep

ENDERS FALLS

Granby

Take a ride up Route 219 West in Granby and you’ll find these wondrous series of falls along a quarter-mile stretch of river within Enders State Forest. The pools formed in the waterfalls’ gorges are tempting to swimmers on hot summer days. But be careful, they can also be dangerous. With several waterfall features, such as plunges, horsetails, cascades and slides, and a vertical drop of 30 feet, falls aficionados keep coming back. The

website ctwaterfalls.com can’t say enough about these falls: “Enders Falls is the best collection of falls I have found in the state. Four of the six falls are among the best single drop falls in the state!”

WILD BILL’S NOSTALGIA CENTER

Middletown

Long before the Netflix sci-fi drama *Stranger Things* was winning viewers and awards with its 1980s nostalgia, the “strange things” at Wild Bill’s provided a groovy time for countless visitors. On the outside, you’re greeted by a multicolored mural depicting Bob Dylan at the corner of Haight-Ashbury

in San Francisco, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Bob Marley and a bare-chested lady hugging a giant mushroom. Wild Bill’s 45 acres of counter-culture paradise includes a working farm, two funhouses and off-the-wall sculptures, such as a creature’s skeleton atop a Volkswagen half-buried in concrete, and the shells of three Yugos. There’s also a 33-foot silo with a 600-pound clown head on top, which may or may not be the world’s largest jack-in-the-box. In front of the “Haunted Funhouse,” which sadly is not open to the public, stands a zombie Michael Jordan, holding a severed head. Strange things, indeed. 860-635-1226, wildbillsonline.com



WILD BILL'S NOSTALGIA CENTER, MIDDLETOWN

CATHERINE ANGLONE

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

Hartford

Many gorgeous houses of worship can be found across the state. But few can rival the combination of clean modernism and color-splashed biblical history of Hartford's St. Joseph. The structure where the local archbishop leads services, and where Catholics in the Asylum Hill section come to worship, looks far different than it did more than a half-century ago. The original cathedral, with its classical twin Gothic spires, was destroyed by a New Year's Eve fire in 1956. The church that replaced it — a 281-foot concrete and limestone edifice with straight lines and hard edges — would have been unrecognizable to those familiar with the original. But inside is where the beauty truly lies. Even for the non-religious, being surrounded by vividly colored stained-glass friezes towering more than six stories, the sun coursing through, it's difficult not to feel the influence of a higher power. Look up at a ceiling full of stars. And look forward to the altar, behind which is one of the largest ceramic tile murals in the world.

860-249-8431, cathedralofsaintjoseph.com

SAVILLE DAM

Barkhamsted

So picturesque is the spired tower of this 135-foot-high, 1,950-foot-long dam that it graced the cover of our magazine last March, part of a feature in which we explored our state's architectural wonders. Completed in 1940 and located on the eastern branch of the Farmington River, the dam creates the 8-mile-long Barkhamsted Reservoir, which serves as the primary water source for Hartford. This is a place where you come to get away and to enjoy the quiet and the stunning views. You might even spy a soaring bald eagle. (It's a favorite haunt of many photographers.) There are also some pleasant walking trails in the area. But if you're planning a long stay, make sure to bring food and drinks; there are no dining options in the immediate vicinity.

AUSTIN HOUSE

Hartford

Looks can be deceiving. That lesson becomes very clear when you visit this tricky location on Scarborough Street. Built in the 1930s by A. Everett "Chick" Austin Jr., the director of the Wadsworth Atheneum from 1927 to 1944, the house was designed after the Palladian villas of Italy. But rather than bricks and stucco, this home is made of painted boards. What's more, it's only 18 feet deep. That's why it came to be called "The Facade House." Believe it or not, it was more



CATHEDRAL OF
ST. JOSEPH, HARTFORD

BOB MULLEN/THE CATHOLIC PHOTOGRAPHER

than just an oddity; it was a real home for Austin and his wife. Today, the house is "the largest object" in the Wadsworth Atheneum collection.

860-838-4046, thewadsworth.org

PETERS RAIL ROAD MUSEUM

Wallingford

It's quite something to see sheer passion and a life's work on full display. Even if you're not "into" trains, it's worth a trip to this unique attraction, dubbed "the biggest little railroad museum in Connecticut." OK, so it's not exactly what you'd expect in a museum; rather than being housed in some stately stone structure, this amazing

collection is in the basement of Dave and Barbara Peters' Wallingford home. It's open to the public, but please call ahead to make an appointment. (You wouldn't want strangers showing up on your doorstep unannounced wanting to check out your basement, would you?) On the ground level is a library filled with more than 2,000 railroad books and assorted collectibles. But the basement is where real treasures are — railroad signs, photos and paintings of beautiful vintage trains and memorabilia, beer bottles with railroad emblems and the front door and headlight of a New Haven Railroad car, built in 1955.

203-269-1788, petersrailroadmuseum.webs.com



HOGPEN HILL FARMS

Woodbury

You don't have to skip across the pond to see megalithic structures such as England's Stonehenge. You can go to Stone Mountain in Woodbury. It's not a mountain in the conventional sense, rather it's a massive outdoor art installation on the 234-acre property of artist Edward Tufte. The landscape is dotted with scores of sculptures, some in stone, some in stainless steel. You'll see what resembles part of Stonehenge, an Airstream trailer that looks like it's about to be launched into space and a 12-foot aluminum fish swimming between trees, and oh yeah, all those megaliths. One of the world's leading authorities on information design and data visualization, Tufte opens Hogpen Hill Farms one day each year so art and nature lovers can stroll the grounds and take in the eye (and brain) candy. Call or check the website for the announcement of this year's tour date. 203-272-9187, edwardtufte.com

OLD STATE HOUSE

Hartford

The place where Connecticut's democracy was born has seen more than its fair share of hard times. Nearly demolished at least twice in the 20th century, including in the 1970s when it almost faced the wrecking ball to make way for a parking



OLD STATE HOUSE, HARTFORD

JOHN BERRY

lot, the National Historic Landmark built in 1796 closed last summer due to budget cuts. But the Old State House, which was Connecticut's original seat of government from 1796 to 1878, is once again open to the public. Stroll through the chambers of the House of Representatives and the

Senate, where the Amistad trial began and the 13th Amendment was ratified, and spy an original portrait of George Washington. Resist the urge to take a spin on Mark Twain's bicycle. Things get a little wacky when you venture upstairs into the Museum of Natural and Other Curiosities, where the walls are lined with rare masks, animal heads and bizarre items such as a "unicorn's horn" and a two-headed calf. 860-522-6766, ctoldstatehouse.org

CUSHING CENTER AT YALE'S WHITNEY MEDICAL LIBRARY

New Haven

One of the perks of having a world-class research institution so close at hand is that some of the most groundbreaking research ever conducted is right here in Connecticut. Yale's Cushing Center is named for Harvey Cushing, a pioneering neurosurgeon, who assembled a unprecedented and unparalleled collection of brains to research various pathologies. In the 1990s, the Cushing brain collection was a sort of secret treasure at Yale, a hidden space that had to be discovered by crawling through dark spaces. Since 2010, however, the brains themselves have been on display in the John Jay Whitney Medical Library, open to all. Call ahead to check availability. 203-785-5354, library.medicine.yale.edu/cushingcenter



HOGPEN HILL FARMS, WOODBURY

© EDWARD TUFTS

THOMAS GRISWOLD HOUSE

Guilford

In order to get a taste of what colonial life was like in an immaculately preserved historical house, you can't do much better than the Thomas Griswold House in Guilford. Maintained by the Guilford Keeping Society — which dates back to the 1940s — and furnished in the style of the early 1800s, a visit to the house feels like stepping into another century. The society bought the house in 1958 from descendants of the Griswolds themselves, and in August, the house hosts a colonial-life summer camp so interested children can get the full, immersive experience.

203-453-2263, guilfordkeepingsociety.com/thomas-griswold-house

SHORE LINE TROLLEY MUSEUM

East Haven

Once upon a time, you could get almost anywhere in the state via mass transportation. Before the dawn of the age of the personal automobile, an extensive network of suburban trolley lines covered not just Connecticut, but most of New England. Hidden histories, indeed. Some of the last remaining suburban trolleys are still running at the Shore Line Trolley Museum in East Haven, where visitors can ride a selection of vintage trolleys — through a rural area! — and get a feel for the



THOMAS GRISWOLD HOUSE, GUILFORD

RICK ODERMATT



SHORE LINE TROLLEY MUSEUM, EAST HAVEN

transportation methods of days gone by. Old trolleys from Connecticut, New Orleans, Montreal and elsewhere are rideable, while a bevy of others are there to look at.

203-467-6927, shorelinetrolley.org

SONO SWITCH TOWER MUSEUM

Norwalk

Have you ever wondered about the outdated switch houses that occasionally sit beside the still popular train lines such as Metro-North Railroad? Today, trains are mostly controlled by computers, but in an older time, sentinels known as switchmen would manually control which trains ran on which tracks. In the downtown South Norwalk section, a wonderfully restored switch tower allows you to step into one of the rooms where this important work was performed. The tower stands over a Metro-North New Haven line train trellis, which, of course, still runs.

203-246-6958, westctnrhs.org/tower

SONO SWITCH TOWER MUSEUM, NORWALK





**CEMETERY AT
CONNECTICUT
VALLEY HOSPITAL,
MIDDLETOWN**

CATHERINE AVALONE



**AMERICAN
CLOCK & WATCH
MUSEUM,
BRISTOL**

CEMETERY AT CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL

Middletown

A truly hidden Connecticut experience, the challenging and even emotionally difficult graveyard at Connecticut Valley Hospital offers a window into the troubled history of how the mentally ill were treated in Connecticut. Located at the edge of the hospital grounds, the cemetery is the final resting place of some nearly 1,700 people, buried there in numbered, unnamed graves from 1878 to 1955. In 1999, local clergy worked with the hospital and the state to get the names of those buried in the plot recovered and inscribed on a monument which now stands on Silvermine Road. The numbered graves are not easy to look at, but the cemetery is a story of lives and dignity — lost and then recovered.

AMERICAN CLOCK & WATCH MUSEUM

Bristol

We rarely think about what a fundamental and central task it is to be able to tell the time. Imagine living out on a farm where only the house had a clock. It would be a fairly radical, life-changing event to have a wristwatch, allowing you to tell time remotely. It might be a bit like the ability to check email or Facebook from a mobile device. How did it come to be such a ubiquitous act? What were the technologies behind this revolutionary technology? (The study of timekeeping is called horology, for those in the know.) Located in an 1801 Federal-style house, the museum boasts some 5,500 watches and clocks in its collection. 860-583-6070, clockandwatchmuseum.org

JUDGES CAVE

New Haven

New Haveners will recognize the names Whalley, Dixwell and Goffe for three major roadways in the city. What Elm City residents and others in the state might not know is the incredible story behind the three names, a story that connects New Haven to what, at the time, were earth-shaking political developments. In 1649, during the English Civil War, some 59 British judges signed a writ of execution for Charles I (“regicide”), and three of them — Edward Whalley, John Dixwell and William Goffe — fled for the colonies. The three judges hid out on the top of West Rock in what is now called Judges Cave, a rock formation situated along the south end of Regicides Trail, a 7-mile, blue-blazed hiking trail. The cave is still there, with a plaque that tells the story with the quote: “Opposition to tyrants is obedience to God.”

ct.gov/deep

DENISON PEQUOTSEPOS NATURE CENTER

Mystic

In a passage on the website of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Executive Director Maggie Jones puts the center’s central grounding and motivation succinctly: “It is a privilege to live here.

DENISON PEQUOTSEPOS NATURE CENTER, MYSTIC



MARK RICHARDSON

We enjoy a high quality of life,” she writes. Indeed, the center’s mission is to get kids out into the woods so that they can learn the joy of natural history. The center has been around since 1946, preserving and teaching about a landscape that has been there for millennia. It puts on a wealth of programs throughout the year for people from every age group, so visitors can learn — or relearn — to fall in love with the woods.

860-536-1216, *dpnc.org*

LIME ROCK PARK

Lakeville

Way up in the Litchfield Hills, tucked beneath a ring of gorgeous ridges, the

adventurous thrill-seeker can walk in the footsteps — or drive in the skid marks, rather — of Paul Newman at this relatively hidden racetrack. With the slogan “Tradition. Beauty. Speed.” the park gives you a chance to see some high-quality racing right here at home. For those with the need for speed, Lime Rock’s Skip Barber Racing School will teach you to tear up the track like a race car driver. The late Newman took his last trip around the track in 2008, but you can still get a glimpse of the glamour and glitz of the sports cars of yesteryear. Keep an eye on Lime Rock’s website and Facebook page for announcements about racing events in the warmer months.

860-435-5000, *limerock.com*



LIME ROCK PARK, LAKEVILLE

JEFF KAUFMAN





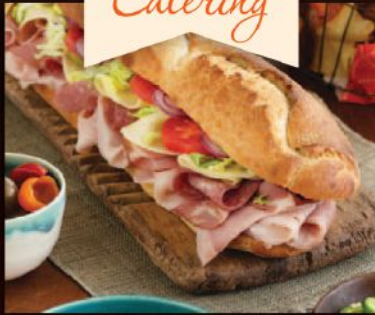
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HUNGRY FOR THE

HUSKIES

**WHY I'LL NEVER STOP LOVING
UCONN BASKETBALL, MEN AND WOMEN**

BY MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY

PHOTO BY PETER CASOLINO



PHOTO BY PETER CASOLINO

IN *LAST NIGHT AT THE Lobster*, Stewart O’Nan’s beautiful, sad and dignified 2007 novel about a single day of working-class life in New Britain, the characters (who are mostly shift workers at a Red Lobster the last night before it closes for good) talk to each other about their everyday struggles and joys, full of references to the real-life landscape of Connecticut.

At one point in the novel, when the waitresses and cooks are making small talk, one mentions UConn is on the TV. “Men or women?” another character asks. When I read the line on a city bus in Boston, where I was spending most of my days at the time, I felt an overwhelming homesickness. Even though I was only up the road in Boston, in that moment, I needed to be back in Connecticut, back where people would understand: when talking about the Huskies, one has to clarify. “*Men or women?*” It’s a phrase I heard in conversation a thousand times growing up, the distinctiveness of which I never knew until I read it on a bus in Boston, written on the page in a novel. That’s *so Connecticut*, I thought to myself.

In a place like Connecticut, which is so routinely characterized (by those not from here) as little more than a rest stop between New York and Boston, it’s important to recognize and celebrate the truly distinctive when it arises. When I recently moved back to Connecticut after nearly a decade away, I found myself smiling every time I saw a UConn hat or bumper sticker, woven into the visual vernacular of life here. As the snippet of dialogue in O’Nan’s novel captures, the Huskies are part of the idiom of our state. Sure there are the Red Sox and the Patriots, and the Yankees and the Giants, but UConn basketball is *our* thing. The Huskies are important to us, and often only to us.

As UConn fans go, people my age are a bit spoiled. I was a child watching the great Huskies teams of the mid- and late-’90s. The 1999 season came at an important time in my life. Some of my earliest memories of Brian, the man who would become my stepfather, are of he and I watching Khalid El-Amin, Rip Hamilton, Ricky Moore, Kevin Freeman and Jake Voskuhl run up and down the court. Early adolescence can be a difficult age for a young boy to get to know a stepfather, especially for a hard-headed child like myself with my father back in Ireland where I was born. My emotions were too immature

to accommodate the notion of oddly shaped families. UConn basketball was an uncomplicated, easy way for Brian and I to enjoy spending time together. The Durham farmhouse where I lived at the time had a hoop next to a small chicken coop, and after games we would run out to take endless jumpers, the ball kicking up clouds of dust in the dirt driveway as it bounced.

Then, of course, the Huskies went and *shocked the world*. Brian bought me a UConn hat, and everything was well in my 11-year-old world. Brian and I might have formed a relationship around other things in those years, but it just happened to be UConn basketball. Eighteen years later, we still watch games together.

For elementary school-aged children, the world is smaller. The days neither drag nor race by, as they do for adults. They just unfold as they should. So do basketball seasons. Children remember strange subtleties and miniscule details of life — textures and feelings that the cluttered minds of adults don’t allow them to see. I remember the joyful way El-Amin played the game, yelling “Hi, Mom!” into the camera as he lay on the baseline smiling after driving to the hoop. I remember being comforted by the chime on WTIC-1080 that signaled the top of the hour, cutting across Joe D’Ambrosio’s voice as



he called the game in the warmth of my stepfather's car in the winter. That tunnel vision of the child means that for me, El-Amin remains the best point guard of all time, Hamilton the best shooting guard and Moore the best defensive specialist in the history of basketball. Whenever circumstances allow, I mute the television and listen to Joe D call the game.

More than in professional sports, the relationship between college coaches and players is about trust. Perhaps because players are so young when they come to play college ball, they need to be able feel that a coach has their best interests at heart. I find it stabilizing and reassuring to see Kevin Ollie, Glen Miller, Moore and Freeman coaching the team now — all connected back to that foul-mouthed Irishman from Braintree, Jim Calhoun. "I think it's very important, you know, to continue the tradition and the culture here at UConn. It starts with the guys that have already been through it," Moore said earlier this season.

The other championship seasons naturally carry their own emotional valences. The superstar-laden 2004 men's and women's teams brought us basketball immortality with the first dual basketball championships in NCAA history. In 2011 I had almost flunked out of college and was taking some time off from school when the men broke off their 11-game winning streak after going 9-9 in conference play that year. They had taken a lot of "Ls" that year, like I had. The aesthetic genius, the spatial brilliance of Kemba Walker in those magical few weeks in March and April brought me a lot of joy in a difficult time. I routinely watch footage of Kemba's game-winner against Pittsburgh in the Big East tournament quarterfinals, in which he orchestrated a defender switch with Jamal Coombs-McDaniel, leaving only the Pitt big man, Gary McGhee, defending Kemba in isolation. Then Kemba *danced*. In, out, in and out again. A Brutus-on-Caesar-caliber jab step sent McGhee's empire

crashing to the floor. McGhee got to his feet just in time to see Kemba's 18-foot jumper swish. This year, Kemba Walker is an all-star in the NBA, and we miss him dearly.

But then a storm of events gathered that might have crashed the program, threatening to turn the Huskies into a formerly great team — the faded obscurity of a St. John's or Boston College. Jim Calhoun's retirement meant we lost the central star around which the Huskies solar system orbited. The NCAA guillotine came down on the Huskies' APR academic score, banning them from the 2013 postseason. Alex Oriakhi and Coombs-McDaniel transferred (who could blame them?). The Big East — the most exciting league in college basketball — self-destructed. It was a nervous time.

Ah, but 2014. More magic. It had been another tough season, and I recall a particular despair after Rick Pitino's Louisville walloped the UConn men in the final game of the regular season. Of the 2014 NCAA championship run, the moment that sticks in my head the most was toward the end of a first-round matchup against St. Joseph's. With 41 seconds remaining, and UConn down 3, 7-foot Amida Brimah pulled in a difficult rebound off a missed Shabazz Napier layup and launched a misshapen, ugly hook shot into the basket, getting fouled in the process. He made his foul shot, and the Huskies survived to the second round. Had the Huskies been bounced out by second-seeded Villanova, I would



Shabazz Napier PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN MEDIA

hardly have been surprised or devastated. But we know what happened next. As they chopped their way through the increasingly big trees of Villanova and Michigan State toward the Final Four in Dallas, they just got better and better.

The 2014 season in many ways felt imbued with more weight than any championship season that came before it for the UConn men. The 2013 ban, and the NCAA harassment of Ryan Boatright, had turned the NCAA into a hated organization for me. While 1999 and 2004 were pure joy, 2011 pure shock, the 2014 run was something resembling rage for a fan like me. I had read *New York Times* columnist Joe Nocera's pieces with disgust at how the NCAA had criminalized a 19-year-old basketball player — while making ample profit off Boatright and others like him. Like some secret police force, they subpoenaed Boat's mother's bank statements, and hurt a young basketball player's career prospects on mere suspicion.

So when Napier, with as much (or more) poise and strength as he had demonstrated on the court all season, took the microphone from Jim Nantz as the confetti streamed down in Dallas, his words rang



Above: Coach Kevin Ollie as the UConn men's basketball team is honored during a ceremony in Gampel Pavilion after returning home with the NCAA title in 2014.

PHOTO BY PETER CASOLINO

Left: Ollie in his playing days with former head coach Jim Calhoun. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN MEDIA



out with a clarity that belied his 22 years. Nantz asked his boilerplate question, but it was clear that Shabazz had his own ideas for what he wanted to say. "I want to get everybody's attention right quick. If I could get your attention. If I don't have your attention, let me get your attention. Ladies and gentlemen, you're looking at the hungry Huskies. This is what happens when you ban us."

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WHEN I STARTED WATCHING UConn basketball, the women had already won their 1995 NCAA championship, and were in the peak years of the wonderfully hateful, bare-knuckle rivalry with Pat Summitt's Tennessee. I hated Summitt then as much as I miss her now. I still remember screaming at the top of my 12-year-old lungs for a whistle in the final seconds of the Huskies' 2000 loss to the Lady Vols. The feeling of being betrayed by the refs, of them stealing the game from you and giving it to the enemy, is just as defining for a young sports fan as watching your

team win. I still remember talking with my friends at school about how Tamika Williams was fouled going up as time ran out and the refs didn't call it.

In those years, UConn taught me to love women's basketball, which is an experience that, as a young boy, would have been less available had I grown up in another state. People in Connecticut love women's basketball in a way that few other places in the country do. Part of this, it must be said, is that the Huskies are simply the greatest women's basketball program of all time. (Another point of pride: UConn basketball teams are the Huskies, men and women. We are not the *Huskies* and then the imitation *Lady Huskies*.) The names of UConn's female players ring out across the state, same as the men. Fans across our state can tell you the position and the years played for any one of these names: Rebecca Lobo, Svetlana Abrosimova, Shea Ralph, Sue Bird, Swin Cash, Diana Taurasi, Maya Moore, Breanna Stewart and Gabby Williams. I remember the swing of Ralph's ponytail just as clearly as I remember Voskuhl's classic '90s hair.

UConn and Geno Auriemma taught us that women's basketball should not be condescended to as some weak version of the men's game. Women's hoops can be its own game, elegant and powerful in its own way. We knew that back in the '90s, just by watching the way they played together.



And we know it today, just as the rest of the sports world is figuring it out. In a 2014 *Sports Illustrated* profile of Stewart, the magazine points out that she is one of the first players in the women's game that, while tall enough to play under the basket, hasn't been forced to do so exclusively. She can still handle the ball, run the floor and shoot from the outside, the same way all-stars in the men's game can play — and dominate — on any part of the floor.

The other thing that makes rooting for Geno's teams a unique experience is that unlike other sports teams, they don't actually lose games. (Or at least they haven't since 2014, when their current streak began.) To root for the UConn women is as much an experiment in teleological thinking, in the idea of utopianism, as much as in wins and losses. The women, with their 11 national championships, play against and toward an idea, as much as against other teams. Perfection on this Earth is impossible (we think), and someday the UConn women will lose (we think). Because monotheism has taught us that perfection is impossible, however, does not mean that Geno and the Huskies do not try to achieve it. Like the parabolic curve that demonstrates the half-life of a radioactive isotope, to watch the UConn women over the course of a season is to watch the errors decrease to a level where as to be negligible. Intellectually we know that they aren't quite perfect, but it becomes very difficult to see just where. On March 1, HBO will debut a behind-the-scenes limited series focusing on the current season, airing every week until the end of their season.

The UConn women have also disabused us of the patronizing notion that women's sports need to be more *civil* than the version played by men. People involved in women's sports are allowed to dislike their opponents, just as much as in men's sports.

Again, we in Connecticut have known that going back to the 1990s and the Tennessee rivalry. Today we know it in the rivalry with Notre Dame. There is legitimate bad blood between the Huskies and the Fighting Irish, and *that's OK*. Asked if she hated Notre Dame before a 2014 matchup, Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis said, "Hate" is a strong word. I would say "dislike." She thought for a moment. "Maybe 'hate,'" she admitted. Stewart was less demure. "Yeah. I'm pretty sure we hate each other," she said. No one, or very few, would bemoan the lack of civility between Jim Boeheim and Jim Calhoun. In fact, we love Calhoun, Auriemma and Ollie for the sharpness of their tongues, and their occasional lapses of civility. It gives the teams they coach character. We are not the smooth, polished psychopathy of a Mike Krzyzewski-coached Duke. There are rough edges, and rough seasons. Which brings us to this year.

"The heart / unknots the skull"

— George F. Butterick, from the poem
Gurleyville Road, a road that runs
into the UConn campus in Storrs.
Butterick was a lecturer in English
and curator of the Literary Archives
at the University of Connecticut.
He died in 1988.

It's been a tough year. As of this writing, the only way for the men to get invited to the NCAA tournament is to win their conference tournament, which is mercifully in Hartford. But still, I watch the games. This year is the first in many that I have lived in Connecticut during the Huskies' season, and in an act of pilgrimage as much as journalism, I got press credentials for the Huskies' Jan. 22 game against East Carolina. Football

sucks up all the air and energy in the sports world, and at a late January game at the XL Center in Hartford, it is the dog days of a tough season.

Before the game, the reporters in the media room are grouching about the game. A mere six scholarship players are suited up. It is a season already suffering from a rash of injuries, and there is talk of walk-ons getting significant playing time. A referee makes a joke to a photographer about keeping a running clock in the second half to get home to watch the Patriots in the AFC Championship game.

Sports is about faith. These people here on a dreary Sunday night in Hartford are the truly faithful. Iconic fanboy Big Red is there, leading the U-C-O-N-N chants like he always has. Joe D is there, and I am too nervous to say hello. After the game in the media room, senior Kentan Facey is happy about the win and how he played, but there is a touch of sadness. This is Facey's best season in his four at UConn, but it is happening at the worst time for the team as a whole. In his subtle Jamaican accent, he softly chuckles about the ice on his legs after playing 38 minutes, putting up 13 points and 10 rebounds.

It feels like the only person who really wants to be here is me, and that's all right. But Jalen Adams is there slashing to the hoop and doing beautiful things that I have never seen from this close before. There is the squeak of sneakers and Adams' sly grin after an acrobatic layup. Let them have the Patriots, with their 70,000-person stadium and their media machine up in Foxborough. I am on the baseline in Hartford, exactly where I want to be, with what they generously announce as 5,676 people — watching the Huskies run up and down the floor on a cold winter night.



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Jack, Age 37 "I was working as a Police officer in April when I was injured on the job, lost the strength in my left arm and hand and had a lot of pain in my neck and midback. I saw many Doctors for 6 months with no resolution to my problem, whether Physical Therapy, Steroids, Pain Medication, or Nerve Block. The Surgeon wanted to do a 3 level fusion on my neck as the last treatment option. I saw the ad in the paper and decided I didn't have anything to lose and to give it a try, but it was my last chance before getting surgery. After my second visit I had regained all of my strength in my left arm and hand and had minimal pain in my neck. My life has drastically improved."

Duane, Age 77 "I woke up one evening with severe pain going down my right leg and went to a Doctor who couldn't tell me what was wrong. He told me to go home, take a hot bath and in a week if it didn't go away to come back. I had an MRI showing a bulging disc in the lower spine, with arthritis and gout. A family member told me about the Deep-Tissue Laser Treatment®, and after the first session the pain lessened significantly. At the end of the visit I could move around great. By the 5th or 6th visit I had no more pain in my leg and lower back. I am extremely satisfied, my legs are stronger, and I am standing up straight. This has been a fantastic thing and it all happened in 4 to 5 weeks. If I could tell you anything it would be to not take pain killers or have surgery until you experience incredible **Deep-Tissue Laser Therapy**".

I connecticut home



MASTER OF MURALS

HARTFORD ARTIST TRANSFORMS WALLS AND OTHER PUBLIC SPACES WITH IMAGINATIVE, WHIMSICAL ART

BY ERIK OFGANG

Tao LaBossiere has learned the hard way that public art has its perils. Once, he was commissioned to paint an elaborate mural on the walls of a Connecticut restaurant. When he returned a few years later to look at the work over which he had toiled, both artistically and physically (painting murals is an act both of creativity *and* endurance), he found that the mural had been all but destroyed by the addition of a flat-screen TV.

Recounting the story over pizza at Blind Pig Pizza Co. in Hartford, where LaBossiere created the restaurant's showstopping custom bar top, he shrugs it off. As if to say, it's the price you pay when you create art that's not hidden behind a glass display case, or protected within a sterile art gallery. It's art that exists in the real world where it can be seen, enjoyed, often touched, and, yes, sometimes destroyed.

"I want the people that view my work to experience a sense of creative joy that changes their perspective — the way they see the world. There's whimsical creative potential in everything," LaBossiere says. "I like to think of it as transforming buildings from one type of facade to another. For example, Bear's BBQ (original Hartford location) is a cinder block wall, but when the mural is complete it looks like an old barn with a tin roof and a stone chimney. It's really a transformation."

LaBossiere has dedicated his career to unlocking that hidden potential, whether it be in a gray factory wall made to look like a warm wood pub, or a concrete retaining wall painted to evoke an intricate stone wall and garden, or from found and discarded objects of various kinds transformed into something new and often extraordinary.

"So many artists are selfish, but I see Tao as the kind of artist who many times when he's creating, he's creating thinking about the viewer. Where many artists

Tao LaBossiere is photographed next to his painting, *Three Bears*, on display at Bear's Smokehouse BBQ in Hartford.

Below: The counter at the bar for the Blind Pig Pizza Co. in Hartford was created by LaBossiere. The bar features hand-drawn images inspired by Prohibition posters and cartoons that were heat transferred onto the copper surface.

Bottom: *Mona Lisa Bear* by LaBossiere hangs in his studio.

PHOTOS BY ARNOLD GOLD



Thinking of Hiring an Artist?

Here are the dos and don'ts of commissioning art for your home or business, courtesy of Amy and Tao LaBossiere.

I'm thinking of commissioning an artist.

What's the first step I should take?

Amy: Consider what kind of art you're looking for. Attend art receptions at galleries and libraries in your area. Ask your friends for recommendations.

Tao: Don't hesitate to talk with the artist. Most artists will welcome a conversation about their creative and commission process that will give you useful information to make your decision. An experienced artist may engage you in a creative brainstorming session that helps you realize your own creative desires and inspires the artist in a direction that better aligns with the purpose of your commission.

Where are some places you can find commercial Connecticut artists?

Tao: We encourage patrons to use artists whom we have supported through Hartford ArtSpace Gallery; you can find us on Facebook. Additionally there is a searchable artist database on ctartlist.com as well as a great source at artassociations.com and ctwomenartists.org and a Connecticut Artist Collection at cultureandtourism.org. If those resources do not work for you, we are happy to see if we can help you, or refer you to someone we know.

What questions should the customer ask from the beginning?

Amy: Be sure to see examples of the artist's work. Find out the cost and turnaround time for the commission. Ask for references, especially if the artist is not known and established.

Tao: There is no substitute for talking with someone who has experienced working with the artist in person. Ask if the artist was friendly, likable and professional. Ask what the artist's design and service fees were. Ask if the artist delivered on their promises and reliably kept their integrity of word throughout the job. Ask for a personal referral to the artist. The full impact of fine art cannot be conveyed through a website or video screen; ask the artist to see their work in person.

What questions are inappropriate to ask?

Amy: Will you give this to me for free? Remember, artists have a special gift that is of value.

Tao: What she said. Please don't try to bargain the price of the artwork down like you're a junk trader at a flea market. Low-balling is beneath you and disrespectful to the artist. You are aspiring to be an art patron, an individual of sophisticated and generous spirit bestowing financial support to someone you admire for their unique creativity and bravery for existing as an agent of inspiration.

do it the other way around: they're creating for themselves," says his wife Amy LaBossiere, who is an artist as well and handles the business end of the Art of Tao LaBossiere, the company the couple runs.

"Most of my work is for other people. I'm trying to be of service with my art," Tao says.

LaBossiere creates many works on commission, and he and Amy enjoy helping companies brand themselves and solve problems through fine art. They also work with individuals looking to commission artwork for their homes. Though LaBossiere's work is labor intensive, he strives to make his services as affordable as possible. Mural paintings start at \$20 a square foot, but can go up to \$100 a square foot depending on the detail of the work, and generally average out to about \$40. Individual illustrations and small sculptures range in price from less than \$100 to \$1,000, with most costing around \$300 to \$400.

If you live or have spent any time in the Hartford area, odds are, whether you know it or not, you've already experienced some of LaBossiere's work. He painted the striking mural of a bear against a wood-sided building at the original Bear's Smokehouse BBQ location on Arch Street in Hartford, as well as the *Everlasting Spring in the Secret Garden* mural outside St. Mary Home, an assisted-living facility in West Hartford, and the mural

that adorns the walls of the Still Hill Brewery taproom in Rocky Hill. In addition, he's designed and painted the logos for the centerpieces of several basketball courts in the state, as well as murals for many other Connecticut restaurants, including a new mural for J's Crab Shack in Hartford, expected to be completed this spring.

At Still Hill Brewery, the taproom is dominated by a painting of an open-beam, barn-like pub that spans two walls and transforms the room. What is usually an industrial area at breweries becomes a warm, cozy spot with a true pub feel thanks to the mural. Scott Barbanel, owner of Still Hill Brewery, explained he had approached LaBossiere about doing a small mural with just the brewery's logo. But when he saw the space, Tao instantly had a vision for something far bigger, and Barbanel got caught up in his enthusiasm.

Tao and Amy's loft apartment at ArtSpace Hartford is as much a part of LaBossiere's work and life

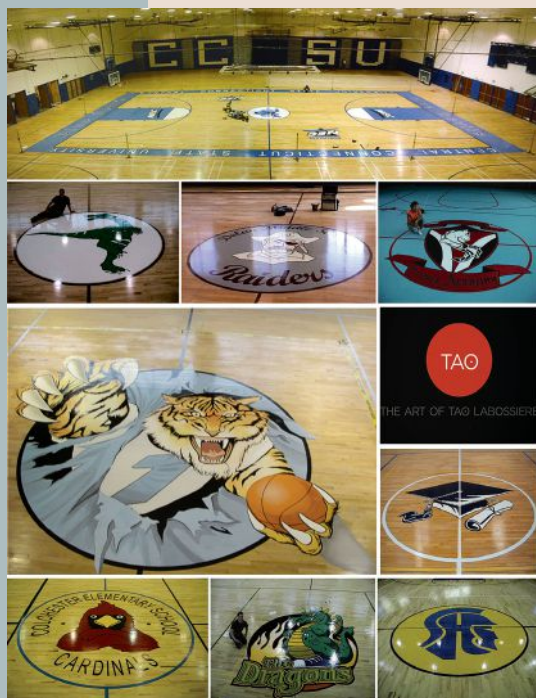
Tao has designed and painted logos for basketball courts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART OF TAO LABOSSIERE

as anything. In the 1990s he took a hard-hat tour while it was still under construction and signed on as its first tenant, moving in on Thanksgiving weekend of 1997. Since that time he has served as the volunteer director of Hartford ArtSpace Gallery, organizing shows that feature and promote the work of established and emerging artists.

It is through the gallery that he and Amy met. Amy was displaying a piece at the gallery and needed a pedestal for her installation. She was told to call Tao, which she did. "He said, 'Come down and we'll meet and I'll talk to you about it,'" Amy says. "So, I met him and he offered to make me a pedestal. I thought, 'who does that?' I was really impressed with him, and I thought he was the most handsome guy I'd ever seen."

Tao was raised in Voluntown. His parents were schoolteachers and the family ran Still Waters, a country retreat in Voluntown, during the summer when they were off from work (Tao and Amy are in the process of fixing fire damage on the property and reopening the resort). It was at Still Waters that LaBossiere learned to serve others and got the experience fixing things with his hands that would later serve him as an artist



working with a variety of materials. As a child he also developed his love of art and creating, thanks to his mother encouraging him to finger paint at a young age. “I can clearly remember receiving lots of love and positive reinforcement for my finger paintings, so I guess to this day I somehow feel like I’m going to receive love when I do my artwork, which I’m lucky to still receive,” LaBossiere says.

As an adult he attended the Cleveland Institute of Art and the Hartford Art School, before launching a career as a professional artist.

Today, Tao and Amy’s studio is a wonderland of artistic expression. Large open windows overlook Bushnell Park and much of the Hartford skyline. But as great as the view is, your eyes are constantly drawn to what’s inside the studio. Perched near the ceiling is an oil drum with teeth protruding from the rims, giving the impression that the drum’s opening is a gaping mouth. It’s called *Jaws* and it’s made out of a 55-gallon steel oil drum that LaBossiere “recreated as a monster, because it symbolizes the voracious appetite of the oil industry preying upon us to feed it, or it can



The studio of Tao and Amy LaBossiere in Hartford. Hanging are Tao’s work, *Heads of the Family*, which are double-sided and feature both male and female faces. PHOTO BY ARNOLD GOLD

also symbolize our voracious appetite for oil.”

One wall is dominated by a towering painting of magnificent underwater creatures. It’s a large-scale mockup of a future project LaBossiere hopes to undertake in the atrium of the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford.

After a tour of their apartment, the next stop is LaBossiere’s studio, a subterranean lair that feels like a superhero’s hideout. On the walls hang various pieces of art in development. There are also sculptures scattered through the room: a giant bull pulls back, ready to charge, in one area, while in another part of the room a group of rusted, demonic Star Wars stormtroopers stand in formation.

The afternoon ends with a trip to the new location of Bear’s Smokehouse in Hartford, where LaBossiere designed many pieces, and the nearby Blind Pig where he designed the etched copper bartop. The bar provides the speakeasy ambiance and design that the barbecue pizza spot was going for. “It’s the heart and soul of the place,” says Justin Morales, Blind Pig’s managing partner.

At the bar, LaBossiere tells the story of works of his that were either painted over or otherwise marred by renovations, redecorations and the natural ravages of time. It’s a fitting conversation because at the moment we are not only touching one of LaBossiere’s latest works of art — the bar — we’re eating on it.

For information about Tao LaBossiere and his art, go to artoftaolabossiere.com.

Any tips for business owners for getting the most out of working with an artist?

Amy: Communication is key. Everything from the project scope and cost through to managing the expectations of the final product and timing are essential. Many clients need to manage artwork being produced around other timelines, like when the business is open or when it will be launched. An artist or artist company that knows how to work with that minimizes obstacles that may arise.

Tao: A business should consider hiring an artist when they want their brand to be represented by more than just a commercial advertising campaign. Fine art in the form of one-of-a-kind paintings, hand-painted wall murals, custom crafted sculptures, site-specific art installations, functional artistic furniture, and artistic architecture are all elements that can enhance and evolve a business to a highly sophisticated brand. A work of art is an experience. Commercial art is essentially an advertisement for a product or service. The challenge is to find an artist who can blur the lines between two; the artist who can invent a creative and compelling way for the customer to experience the ‘brand’ as a unique and authentic work of fine art. That’s what we do.

Any tips for homeowners for getting the most out of working with an artist?

Amy: Communication is key for homeowners, too. Be clear as to whether you are giving the artist his or her artistic freedom, or if you have clear direction on what you want. If you respect the artist’s style and work, the more freedom you give them to

create, the better the outcome. You’ll have to be willing to let go of a controlled final product. Also, go to local art receptions and open-studio events. Buy local art. You can purchase art at any budget, and be supporting an artist and encouraging their continued work.

Tao: When a homeowner commissions an artist to create a custom work of art, both parties are venturing into the creative unknown. ‘The Work’ does not yet exist, and the finished product will be the organic result of a collaboration of ideas between the homeowner and the artist. One way to align ideas and visions is to ask the artist to see some of their previous preliminary designs in a side-by-side comparison to photos of their finished art commissions. Then hire the artist to create preliminary designs, with a round of revisions, before committing to the final commission.

Any other tips?

Tao: It takes courage to be creative. To reach down deep within one’s private soul and pull out a form of self expression to be judged by the world can be risky business. Braver still are the artists who attempt to create their own lives as freelance entrepreneurs and survive through their personal creativity. Artists, give them respect. What other profession has a history of being prefaced by the word “starving”?

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REVIEWS, FEATURES, RESTAURANT LISTINGS

Italian, in Technicolor



New Haven's
Olives and Oil
puts modern,
experimental spin
on classic fare

BY MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY



Polipo, above, and bone marrow oreganata, left.

Opposite page: Olives and Oil Chef John Brennan, top; burrata. **Previous page:** Arancini.

PHOTOS BY JEFF KAUFMAN

A 1904 *New York Tribune* article about Italian immigration to New Haven carried the fevered headline “ITALIANS ARE FLOODING CONNECTICUT.” The article quotes the Rev. Joel Ives of the Missionary Society of Connecticut, who worries that the Italians coming into the state are “poor, superstitious, ignorant, and indifferent.”



Olives and Oil New Haven

and customs became an indelible part of the life and character of the city. Simply put, New Haven wouldn't be New Haven without apizza, without its Italian immigrants. New

Haven has also ranked among the best nightlife scenes in the state, and Olives and Oil, which opened in December, attempts to bridge that gap between the old and the new, between a proud Italian culinary legacy and a buzzing nightlife.

Located in a space at the corner of Temple and Crown streets, in the heart of New Haven's club district, Olives and Oil enters a physical location that has seen a number of bars and restaurants come and go over the years. Executive chef and co-owner John Brennan (of Elm City Social Club fame) describes it as a “vintage Italian gastro bar, and I describe the cuisine as electric Italian.” Vintage and electric. The classic look of the old Italian advertisements in the menu and on the walls contrasts with massive multicolor graffiti frescoes of a pig's head and an octopus. Like the rest of the restaurant, it's a curious combination, and it mostly works.

Upon sitting down, it takes a few minutes to orient oneself to the menu, which is designed in the manner of an old Italian fashion magazine. My dining party was expertly assisted through the menu by our waiter, however, who explained the various parts with ease.

The menu is something to behold, and a single visit to Olives and Oil is not enough to sample everything. Nevertheless, we shall try. The cocktail menu is festooned with more Italian liqueurs than a beer drinker like myself ever knew existed, and there are 16 rotating wines on tap, with flights available. For the true wine drinker, the list of wines by the bottle continues for another two pages. Because of the menu design, complete with some 15 vintage advertisements, it is a full five pages before the first food selections make themselves known. A selection of different mozzarella plates, a raw bar (known by its Italian name *crudo*), and small sharing plates called *cicchetti* open the food portion.

Hoping to sample as much as possible, we opted for two *cicchetti* dishes — which Brennan says resemble Spanish tapas in spirit — and the burrata soft cheese from the mozzarella menu. From the *cicchetti* menu — which, along with the *per la famiglia* entrees for two, is where Brennan's



vision of electric Italian really takes flight — I sampled the bone marrow and the arancini with Parmesan, fontina and vodka sauce. The bone marrow was intensely flavorful without being overwhelming, the smoothness of the arancini acting as a lovely counterpoint. The arancini was one of the highlights of the meal, as the crispness of the fried exterior played well against the creamy texture of the rice filling. While decorum kept me from mopping the vodka sauce up with the spoon, I could hardly blame anyone who would.

The burrata, from a rather impressive selection of fresh mozzarella plates, was also quite memorable, with a pesto jam and truffle salt. The bruschetta was a fairly standard, but delicious, version of the Italian staple.

Despite Brennan's red hair and Irish last name, the chef grew up in an Italian household in New Jersey, with family recipes that reach straight back to Sicily. In some cases, Brennan says, the recipes are exact replications of the ones he learned from his grandmother. This is Brennan's second effort in New Haven, after having

opened the nearby Elm City Social Club in 2015 on College Street. Olives and Oil appears to desire the same crowd, but with more extensive food offerings than the cocktail and drinks-oriented Elm City. Brennan says he was not scared that the location has seen a number of other places fail, saying he doesn't believe in curses.

Rather, the building itself drew him in. "I have a soft spot for old architecture and I saw it was available and the building was gorgeous," he says. "I was like, you know, why don't we open another restaurant in New Haven? I think there's certainly room for additional concepts, and people are moving in. ... The city is bustling. People really love us and know us down there."

The spaghetti carbonara came with an unmixed egg which, once mixed in with the pasta, created a hearty and supremely filling dish. The "New School" meatball dish, with its ground bacon, beef, veal, onion jam and aged gouda, missed the mark, to my taste, and felt like a melding of too many different flavors. My party briefly contemplated ordering the most intimidating and intriguing dish on the menu: an entire



rabbit prepared for two people at \$58. The rest of the menu had defeated us, however. Next time. Olives and Oil also offers an extensive selection of small pizzas, cooked in the in-house brick oven.

The dessert menu features a rotating cannoli option. Our visit was on peanut butter and chocolate day and the cannoli was an ample bow on what had been a massive and filling meal.

Olives and Oil

124 Temple St., New Haven
203-891-5870, olivesandoil.com

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. The bar is open till last call.

Price range: Cicchetti: \$8-\$16 (arancini \$10, bruschetta \$8, bone marrow \$15); pastas: \$16-\$20 (spaghetti carbonara \$20); per la famiglia dishes for two: \$20-\$29 per person; dessert: \$9.

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible through a side entrance.

AMBIANCE The huge space is divided into a bar section and a more traditional dining area with booths. The high ceilings and open space evoke the "great room" dining of a different era. The clientele was a mixture of young people in large parties and Yale parents taking a child out for a start-of-term meal. The music and its volume certainly suited a younger crowd, but not deafeningly so.

SERVICE Stellar. Our server, Manny, was funny, friendly and impressively knowledgeable about what is a beast of a menu.

FOOD Executive chef John Brennan's term, "electric Italian," is apt. Recognizable and familiar dishes are done in adventurous ways that sometimes overstep, but are mostly exciting and well executed.

Milkshakes and More

ICE CREAM
FLIGHTS, CREPES,
COFFEE & SHAKES
AT CREAM
AND SUGAR
IN BETHEL

BY ERIK OFGANG



This story begins when my wife showed me a Facebook image of an almost cartoonishly decadent milkshake; it was topped with whipped cream, house-made chocolate chip cookies and had jagged lines of hot fudge cutting through its espresso-darkened body like fault lines of flavor. It was mid-January during one of early winter's few cold spells, but I didn't care. Drawn by the call of cream and chocolate, I had to try the place that made this milkshake: it was called Cream and Sugar.

When my wife and I, along with my brother, visited a few days later, we found a charming downtown Bethel ice cream shop and cafe with an old-school candy-shop and distinctly Willy Wonka-esque vibe. Beyond

the milkshakes, the shop also offers a full coffee bar, ice cream flights (small samplings of various ice creams) and specializes in house-made sweet and savory crepes.

In the name of journalistic integrity, we tried one savory crepe with chicken, an ice cream flight and two milkshakes. The crepes are made each morning from new batter. The savory crepe I tried provided a solid lunch, resembling a burrito but

tasting more like a panini, with the crepe providing an unusual but intriguing base for the sandwich. The ice cream (purchased from Gifford's in Maine and Jane's Ice Cream in New York) was good, and it was fun to try different flavors in the flight, but the stars of the show were the milkshakes.

The shakes came in a variety of wacky, diet-busting flavors, but you can also make your own and choose standard flavors with the option of adding a full shot of espresso and toppings like cookies, brownies, marshmallows and various candies. We opted for a peanut butter milkshake (whirled peanut butter ice cream with whipped cream and peanut butter candies), and a vanilla milkshake with a shot of espresso. When the two shakes were served, the peanut butter version won the appearance competition by a long shot and provided a big, sweet hodgepodge of great flavors. In terms of pure flavor, however, the vanilla shake with espresso was the winner. The ice cream fused perfectly with the espresso, adding character and depth. "The espresso does enhance the flavor by balancing out the sweetness," says Alyce Kallman, owner of Cream and Sugar, in an interview following my visit. She adds, "We use very little milk in our specialty milkshakes because we want people to taste the ice cream and not a bunch of milk. This also keeps the milkshake thick."

Kallman opened Cream and Sugar in March 2016, after searching several years for the right location. She began making her shop's signature milkshakes as a gag. "I was bored with the regular milkshake, so I started adding things to them," she recalls. "I made one with tons of whipped cream, food coloring in it and some Sour Patch candy. I sent it to my daughter who was in college at the time, then she sent me a pic of something she saw online. I had no idea people were actually wanting milkshakes like this. I was already making my ice cream sundaes like this for friends. So I started posting them (on social media)."

On my next visit, I'd like to try The Avalanche, a monster of a milkshake that comes in at a whopping 7.6 pounds, and is loaded with s'mores, Hershey's bars, mini chocolate chips, graham crackers, fudge, whipped cream, along with a brownie and an ice cream sandwich, and made with freshly baked cookies. In the meantime, I can attest that the combination of sugar and coffee in the shakes is indeed potent and tasty.

Cream and Sugar

7 PT Barnum Square, Bethel
203-628-7349, creamandsugarcafe.net

Hours: Tue.-Sat. noon to 9 p.m., Sun. noon to 7 p.m., closed Mon.

Wheelchair accessible

PHOTOS BY MEG MATYIA



Taking It to the Streets

NORWALK'S EL SEGUNDO PROVIDES STREET CUISINE FROM (ALMOST) ALL NATIONS

BY ERIK OFGANG

The instant you walk into El Segundo you can tell you're in store for an unusual dining experience. The decor is modern and hipster-chic, but not in a run-of-the-mill way: there are no Edison lightbulbs or plaid-clad servers and not everything will be served to you in a mason jar. Instead, the Norwalk bar and restaurant has the feel of a '90s rap-inspired clubhouse. The walls are lined with sheets from container ships. The linings are dotted with fascinating graffiti. Completing this hip-hop motif, members of the staff wear shirts with an emblem that recalls the logo of the 2015 film *Straight Outta Compton* and the seminal album of the same name by N.W.A.

This is all done in a tongue-and-cheek way, and the result is a quirky, fun and welcoming vibe that is matched to a T by the menu. Billed as "global street food," the chefs and cooks at El Segundo prepare a United Nations of dishes with a stunningly wide array of flavors and cultural influences. Guests can enjoy South American cuisine one moment, then jump hemispheres for Vietnamese delicacies the next. It's all unified by the concept of "street food," hand-held cuisine that is equally as appropriate during a lunch break or late night out. Tapas-size portions, disposable plates and forks, and lots of crave-inducing flavors complete the experience.

Each dish has distinct flavors and seems like it could have been ordered at a separate restaurant.

The menu is broken into three parts: "closer to home," "across the

pond" and "end in the east." Under the "closer to home" heading you'll find a variety of North, Central and South American cuisine. This section has Canadian-influenced poutine and Philly cheesesteaks, and the excellent Venezuelan arepas (a cornbread sandwich with braised pork, avocado, queso fresco, red onion and salsa verde) and Colombian empanadas (seasoned ground beef and potato filling with red salsa). The "across the pond" section includes Mediterranean-influenced cuisine, including the Israeli-style hummus, a decent, but not exceptional, rare miss for the restaurant. More inspired was the Greek souvlaki, a pita stuffed with tzatziki sauce, lettuce, tomato and onion that is the stuff of late-night food-run dreams. Another excellent sandwich is the banh mi, found under the "end in the east" portion of the menu. Courtesy of the French-influenced cuisine of Vietnam, the sandwich features pork liver pâté and braised pork with pickled daikon and carrots, cilantro, fresh jalapeños and cucumbers.

El Segundo was opened in August by the team that owns the popular Norwalk restaurant The Spread: Chris Hickey,

Andrey Cortes, Christopher Rasile, Shawn Longyear and Carlos Baez. In addition, Baez is executive chef of both The Spread and El Segundo. "We had wanted to do street food before we opened The Spread, but the pieces just didn't fit right at the time," Hickey says. "The concept never went away and grew more defined in our minds over the few years between. Incorporating things from all over the world was something we felt hadn't been done that we knew of and was a challenge for us. We took it head on and what resulted is what you see at El Segundo."

Beyond the food, the beer list is solid, and there are some cool cocktails including Ay! Cabroni!, a refreshingly unsweetened drink with pisco, Nuestra Soledad mezcal, mint and lime.

For dessert, a bowl of ice cream is elevated to new heights by warm and delicious churros, which are among the best anywhere.

El Segundo

3 N. Water St., Norwalk
203-939-9765, elsegundosono.com

Hours: Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Wheelchair accessible

Top, from left: Colombian empanadas (shredded seasoned chicken filling with red salsa); Spanish gambas al ajillo (seared garlic-marinated shrimp); Vietnamese summer roll (rice paper-wrapped tuna, cucumber, carrot and daikon with a spicy soy mayo dipping sauce); Chinese chicken soup (chicken soup with a 60-minute egg, Asian noodles and bok choy).

PHOTOS BY MEG MATYIA



CONNECTICUT BECAME the birthplace of American vodka after a Russian immigrant named Rudolph Kunett purchased the rights to the Smirnoff brand in the 1930s and set up shop in Bethel.

A few years later, Hartford businessman John Martin purchased Smirnoff and successfully marketed vodka to a national audience, helping to invent the Moscow Mule cocktail along the way. So, it's fitting that Connecticut is flexing its distilling muscles. In recent years several distilleries have opened and several more are on the way.

A sure sign of the industry's maturity came last fall when the Craft Spirits Trail was launched (ctspiritstrail.com). The trail provides information about various producers, and participating distilleries provide guests a "passport" that is stamped after each distillery visit. Guests who stop at every business on the trail will have the chance to win assorted prizes.

The trail is the brainchild of Tom Dubay, CEO of Hartford Flavor Co., a Hartford-based spirits producer. Dubay says, "I saw how successful the Wine Trail and the Beer Trail have become and thought that we could do the same with spirits." When he reached out to other spirits producers in the state, the idea "was greeted with

MOVED BY THE SPIRITS

BY ERIK OFGANG

NEW SPIRITS TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS STATE'S DISTILLERIES, LIQUOR PRODUCERS

similar interest and passion."

The recent success of the spirits industry in Connecticut has been fueled in part by changing laws. Prior to 2014, state distilleries and spirits producers could not offer guests samples, and prior to 2015 these businesses could not sell bottles of their products directly to customers.

Despite these updates to state law, there is more work to do, say Connecticut spirits producers.

"Distilleries are still not at an equal level when compared to what wineries and breweries are allowed to do, but we are beginning to move in the right direction," says Peter Kowalczyk, co-owner of East

Hartford's Onyx Spirits Co. The next step, Kowalczyk and other producers say, is to change laws to allow distilleries to offer guests mixed drinks, so they can enjoy a Connecticut spirit as part of their favorite cocktails. "This year we'll be appealing to the legislature to allow distillery tasting rooms to offer full-size cocktails on an equal level to what breweries and wineries do," Kowalczyk says. "Of course, we always emphasize responsible consumption of alcohol and our staff is well trained in that regard."

The trail currently has 10 members, though a few are not yet accepting visitors. Here we take a closer look at the state's spirit producers.



Litchfield Distillery
CONTRIBUTED



LITCHFIELD DISTILLERY

569 Bantam Road, Litchfield

Since opening in the summer of 2014, this distillery has impressed drinkers with its bourbons, gins and vodkas and become one of the more visible Connecticut spirit brands. “[We use] locally grown grains to produce world-class spirits in very small batches,” says Jack Baker, one of the distillery’s co-founders. This practice has earned Litchfield Distillery multiple medals from the San Francisco World Spirits Competition. While you can’t go wrong with any Litchfield products, the distillery’s bourbons are a personal favorite. The standard bourbon and double-barreled variety are both excellent, as is the coffee bourbon. Made with coffee from Windsor-based roaster Baronet Coffee, this is one of the only — if not *the* only — coffee bourbon in existence.

Visiting: Litchfield has a large and impressive tasting room located in the rolling hills of Litchfield (it’s a great area for a daytrip). The distillery is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., “or by chance or appointment,” says Baker.

860-361-6503,
litchfelddistillery.com

HARTFORD FLAVOR CO.

30 Arbor St., Suites 107-108, Hartford

Opened in 2015, Hartford Flavor Co.

produces the Wild Moon liqueurs line, which are botanically infused, and free of chemicals and gluten. Flavors include cucumber, rose, cranberry, lavender, birch and chai spice, with lime launching this spring. “We have reduced the sugars within the liqueur and use all-natural flavoring ingredients — such as Connecticut-grown cucumbers and Cape Cod cranberries. Doing so lets the flavors prevail so they make amazing mixed drinks and cocktails,” says Dubay, who owns the business

with his wife Lelaneia. The line of liqueurs has won multiple medals at the World Spirits Competition in New York. Last summer writer Kate Hartman praised the Wild Moon cucumber liqueur in this magazine: “crisp like a real cucumber, this locally crafted and bottled product slashes through the sweat of August with cool revitalization.”

Visiting: The Hartford Flavor Co. has a bright and open tasting room where tours and tastings are offered, Friday 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday 1 to 6 p.m. and Sunday 2 to 5 p.m., as well as by appointment and for private events.

860-338-1642, hartfordflavor.com



ASYLUM DISTILLERY

259 Asylum St., Bridgeport

Asylum Distillery, which opened in May 2016, is not yet officially a part of the Spirits Trail, but it's well worth a detour. Located on Asylum Street in an out-of-the-way section of Bridgeport, the distillery offers a gin, unaged corn whiskey and vodka all made in small batches from 100 percent Connecticut-sourced corn. "We think you can taste the difference," says owner and distiller Robert Schulten. "We work with Connecticut farmers to bring the best Connecticut-grown products forward, pushing the 'farm to glass' concept." The most popular spirit so far has been the distillery's gin, a statement-making product with a smooth flavor balanced by infused botanicals that has been known to impress even non-gin drinkers.

Visiting: Tours and tastings at the distillery are available by appointment only, Thursdays through Saturdays from 3 to 6 p.m. Schulten gives the tour himself.

203-292-0146,

asylumdistillery.com



ASYLUM DISTILLERY

WESTFORD HILL DISTILLERS

196 Chatey Road, Ashford

Licensed as a distillery in 1997, Westford Hill Distillers is not just an elder statesman of distilling in Connecticut, it is also one of the country's oldest small distilleries. "We were in the initial group of six U.S. distilleries and first east of the Rockies to open after federal legislation was passed that allowed for craft distillation," says Louis Chatey, who owns the distillery with his wife Margaret. Westford Hill's signature spirit is a New World aged apple brandy, which is aged 14 years in full-size French oak barrels. "Apple brandy was the first spirit of the American colonies, but production techniques were lost as the result of Prohibition," Chatey says. "Westford Hill Distillers' work in resurrecting this spirit

was recognized by the Smithsonian Institution in 2015 when we were selected to represent craft distillation as part of their History of Food series." It is one of

many honors and accolades the distillery has received over the years; others include being featured in *Saveur* magazine's Top 100, named to *Bon Appetit* magazine's "Best of the U.S." and features in *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and *The New York Times*.

In addition to its apple brandy, Westford Hill produces vodka, whiskey, rum, gin, cordials and botanical specialties.

Its Poire Prisonniere, an eau-de-vie (clear, colorless fruit brandy) comes in an eye-catching, heart-shaped bottle with a real pear inside — the pear actually grows *inside* the bottle, which is tied to the tree before harvest when the pears are tiny enough to fit through the neck of the bottle.

Visiting: A visit here provides an immersion in the history of distilling in this country and beyond. Currently tours are by appointment only and there is no tasting room, but one is under construction and is scheduled to be opened this spring.

860-429-0464,
westfordhill.com



WESTFORD HILL DISTILLERS

WAYPOINT SPIRITS

410 Woodland Ave.,
Suite C, Bloomfield

Launched by three friends in the summer of 2015, Waypoint Spirits is a surefire waystation for liquor lovers. Products include gin, vodka, spiced rum and a specialty line of small-batch whiskeys that features unusual experiments in flavor, including a honey-habanero whiskey and — in a nod to the craft beer world — a hopped whiskey. Local agriculture products are often utilized in the recipes of the spirits, and the small-batch quality of the company is evident in the final product. As the official description for Waypoint's Wintonbury Gin states: "Regal and refined. Balanced and botanical. Floral and fanciful. Oh hell, it's just plain delicious!"

Visiting: Waypoint Spirits is open for tours and tastings Friday 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday noon to 5 p.m. No appointments are necessary to participate.

860-858-1446, drinkwaypoint.com

ONYX SPIRITS CO.

64D Oakland Ave., East Hartford

The signature products of this distillery are its Secret Stash Reserve whiskey and Onyx Moonshine. The latter is an unaged whiskey that Kowalczyk says combines "the best elements of both vodka and traditional barrel-aged whiskey. It's smoother and mixes better than vodka, but can be enjoyed on the rocks like a high-end whiskey."

Since launching in 2011, the company has also begun offering seasonal

moonshine infusions such as Onyx Moonshine Apple Honey, made with honeycrisp apples from Blue Hills Orchard in Wallingford, and Onyx Cape Cod Cranberry, made with cranberries from PJ's Cranberries in Sandwich on Cape Cod. Kowalczyk says that when the company was formed, "We wanted to tell the story of moonshine in New England, since so many people associate moonshine with the South and don't realize there is quite a rich history of moonshine right here as well."

Visiting: The distillery has a speakeasy-style tasting room complete with Prohibition-era artifacts from Connecticut. Tasting room hours are Friday 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Free whiskey seminars and tours with the distiller are offered Friday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m.

860-550-1939, onyxmoonshine.com

HICKORY LEDGES FARM AND DISTILLERY

183 Bahre Corner Road, Canton

Billed as a "smooth sip of American Heritage," the Full Moonshine line features a variety of moonshines powered by flavors such as apple pie, cranberry and maple. According to the company, the secret to the flavors is the fact that each moonshine is handcrafted in small batches and features clear spring water that is then flavored with ingredients such as farm-made, fresh-pressed apple cider, local maple syrup, native cranberries and select corn. For those who don't enjoy flavored spirits, Hickory Ledges also offers Full Moonshine Circa 1797, a traditional unflavored moonshine that is clear as water and strong as fire.

Visiting: Guests can stop by the farm for a tasting and to learn how the moonshine is made on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

860-693-4039, fullmoonshine.com

COMING SOON TO THE SPIRITS TRAIL

Several companies are not yet accepting visitors at their facility or are not yet open:

Maple Lane Spirits in Preston produces the Foggy Harbor line of gin and vodka. The company's products are currently being distributed, but its facilities won't be open to visitors until later this spring. In the meantime, its spirits are worth seeking out. The Foggy Harbor gin is a standout. foggyharbor.com

Connecticut Valley Distillery in Ellington produces a small-batch silver rum. ctvalleydistillery.com

John Fitch Distilling Co. in South Windsor is expected to open this spring. johnfitchdistilling.com

Mine Hill Distillery in Roxbury is slated to open this spring.



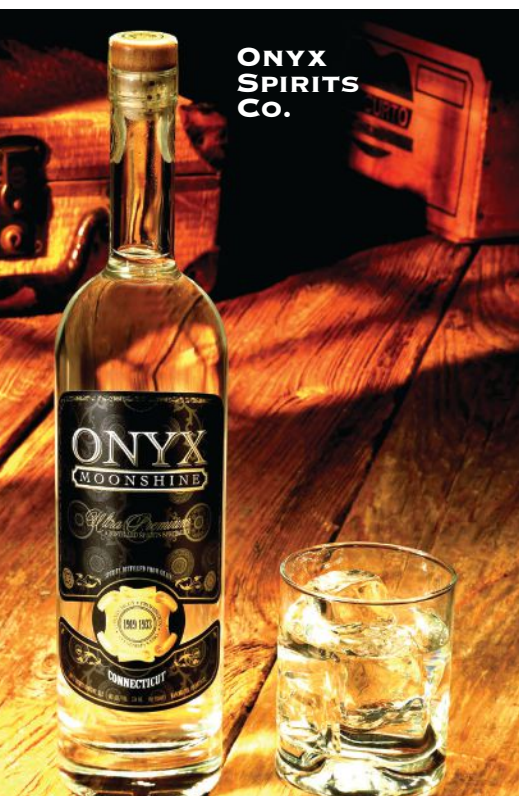
Sangria

ATLANTIC RESTAURANT, DANBURY

An out-of-the-way hidden gem, Atlantic is best known for home-cooked-style Portuguese delicacies such as mariscada (lobster, shrimp, scallops and clams in a wine and butter sauce), espetada Atlantico (grilled shish-ka-bob with Portuguese sausage, peppers and onions) or steak on a stone (steak cooked on a sizzling stone at your table). However, I first fell in love with the spot not because of these or other excellent dishes offered at affordable prices — at \$11 the frango à milanesa, chicken in a white sauce, is one of the best buys in the state — but because of the restaurant's house-made, addictively good sangria.

Traditionally associated with both Portugal and Spain, sangria is made by combining wine, brandy, sugar (or simple syrup) and a variety of summer fruits. Atlantic offers both red and white sangria. While both are excellent, I prefer the red. Some sangria gets drowned in sugar. But this version, while certainly sweet, is not so sugary that it feels like it will give you an instant cavity. Instead, it is an easy-drinking beverage, both refreshing in the summer and warming in the colder months. It is a popular drink and often runs out early in the evenings at Atlantic, so if sangria is the only reason for your visit, you may want to call ahead to make sure they have it. Or, as I initially did, you can go for the sangria and stay for the food.

203-788-9998, restaurantatlantic.com
[ERIK OF GANE]



Love Sweet Love

BELOVED BAKER
DORIE GREENSPAN'S
DORIE'S COOKIES OFFERS
WEALTH OF WISDOM, INSPIRATION

BY SHELLEY LAWRENCE KIRKWOOD

The cover of cookbook author and columnist Dorie Greenspan's cookbook *Dorie's Cookies* features her infamous chewy and salty shortbread "World Peace Cookie." The chocolate-laden treat is set in stark relief from the image's almost iridescent purple background; each sweet crevice gleams, begging to be bitten. The image — one of many eye-catchers in this volume of more than 160 cookie recipes — hints at the nostalgia of mid-20th-century food photography, while also establishing a bold aesthetic to reveal the most subtle details of each cookie's finer points.

A four-time James Beard Award-winning author, Greenspan has authored or co-authored 12 cookbooks. She also writes an "Everyday Dorie" column for *The Washington Post*, splitting her time between Westbrook, Paris and New York. Her love of cookies is as monumental as the *Dorie's Cookies* cover image suggests, measuring more than 300 recipes deep.

Writing with the ease and charm of a seasoned hostess at a holiday party, Greenspan's recipes are often as entertaining as they are compelling and tasty. Kindness, gratitude and joy are themes that permeate her discussions around food and cooking in general, but perhaps most especially when the topic turns to cookies.



Chocolatey, crisp melody cookies in the works. SHELLEY LAWRENCE KIRKWOOD

Cookies, Greenspan believes, can serve as a kind of currency of kindness. "It's so easy to make people happy," she said in a recent podcast interview with *Radio Cherry Bombe*. "As bakers, we never really bake for ourselves. All of a sudden, I thought ... let's do what we always do, which is bake and share."

To this end, Greenspan has launched her Instagram #cookiesandkindness project, encouraging bakers to share cookies "as a singular act of kindness."

Whether or not you are inclined to give your cookies away, *Dorie's Cookies* is likely to inspire lots of bookmarks — always the measure of any enduring cookbook.

It is by turns a practical guide to the most elemental aspects of baking, and a treasure trove of recipes from ever-so-slightly tweaked classics like chocolate chip (nutmeg and coriander!) and classic brownies (buy the Valrhona cocoa). There are also a variety of savory never-before-imagined-as-a-cookie recipes, such as the Old Bay pretzel-and-cheese "cocktail" cookie.

Nutty, spicy, fruity, chocolatey, sweet or savory, there are a wealth of options in *Dorie's Cookies* for bakers of every level and cookie sensibility.

It's also just a fun book to ogle.

Greenspan's previous books utilized lovely, albeit more traditional, approaches to photography and design. *Dorie's Cookies* is a definite

departure into the decidedly contemporary photographic sensibility of the New York-based husband-and-wife team, photographer Davide Luciano and stylist Claudia Ficca.

Luciano has a background in film, and many of the couple's whimsical collaborative efforts embrace a hyper-chromatic and narrative approach to image-making.

Greenspan has described the photographic aspect of the cookbook as an enjoyable group of weeks when the trio would work, eat, discuss, celebrate and press on, day after day. The resulting photographs for the book are vivid compositions that rely on graphic juxtapositions of color and a flawless command of lighting. The images meticulously illustrate the essence of what has allowed each cookie to make the three "Purple Star" cut — Greenspan's personal code for the best of the best.

My kids, particularly my 3-year-old son, were enchanted by the ooey, gooey details revealed in this collection of photographs. As we flipped through the pages, I explained the #cookiesandkindness idea to them; it was an easy sell.

After perusing their options, they settled on the "Melody" cookie, a replication of a chocolate Nabisco cookie of yore. With only six ingredients and a pink stand mixer, they managed to measure, mix, cut, bake and wrap nearly 20 cookies.

The first package, a gift to our beloved mailman, was met with a huge smile on an otherwise dreary, rainy January afternoon. "You guys are the best," he said, taking the little foil-wrapped bundle.

I think the gesture helped us all to remember that sometimes, even the smallest acts of kindness can linger like the taste of a chocolate chip cookie, warm and sweet.

Dorie's Cookies

By Dorie Greenspan, photography by Davide Luciano
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company
2016, 528 pages



Dorie Greenspan
PHOTO BY
DAVIDE LUCIANO

My Newest Chocolate Chip Cookies

Text excerpted from Dorie's Cookies ©2016 by Dorie Greenspan. Reproduced by permission of Rux Martin/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.

My Classic Best Chocolate Chip Cookies have been my favorites for close to twenty years. I still love them, but when it comes to chocolate chip cookies, it's hard to be constant. Recipes for chocolate chip cookies are like scarves — you're always happy to have a new one. And so, here's my new cookie. Not radically different from the old one ... but different enough that you'll want to make both.

This cookie, with its combination of all-purpose and whole wheat flours and a different mix of white and brown sugars, bakes to a chewier cookie than my classic. I added nutmeg and coriander to the dough, and it's up to you if you'd like to use them or not — or if you'd like to use even more. Or maybe you want to flavor the dough with a little instant espresso (1/2 to 3/4 teaspoon) with or without ground cinnamon (1/4 teaspoon), or even a little (1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon) Chinese five-spice powder.

A word on timing: You can use the dough soon after it's made, but it improves with more chill time. If you can wait a day to bake the cookies, do.

MAKES ABOUT 50 COOKIES

1¾ cups (238 grams) all-purpose flour

2/3 cup (91 grams) whole wheat flour

3/4 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon ground coriander

2 sticks (8 ounces; 226 grams) unsalted butter, cut into chunks, at room temperature

1 cup (200 grams) sugar

3/4 cup (150 grams) packed light brown sugar

1¼ teaspoons fine sea salt

2 large eggs, at room temperature

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

10 ounces (283 grams) semisweet or bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped (or 1½ cups chocolate chips)

Whisk both flours, the baking soda, nutmeg and coriander together.

Working with a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, or in a large bowl with a hand mixer, beat the butter, both sugars and the salt together on medium speed until smooth, about 3 minutes. One by one, add the eggs and beat for 1 minute after each goes in. Beat in the vanilla. Turn the mixer off, add the dry ingredients all at once and pulse to begin the blending, then mix on low speed until the dough comes together and the flour has disappeared. Add the chocolate and incorporate on low speed or mix



DAVIDE LUCIANO

in by hand with a sturdy flexible spatula. Wrap the dough in plastic and refrigerate it for at least 1 hour.

GETTING READY TO BAKE

Position the racks to divide the oven into thirds and preheat it to 375 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats.

Using a tablespoon, scoop out level portions of dough. Roll each tablespoon of dough between your palms to make a ball and place the balls at least 2 inches apart on the lined baking sheets.

Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, rotating the pans top to bottom and front to back after 6 minutes, or until the cookies have spread, puffed a little, turned a light golden brown and feel only just set around the edges. Transfer the baking sheets to racks and let the cookies rest on the sheets for at least 5 minutes before lifting them onto the racks to cool to just warm or room temperature.

Repeat with the remaining dough, being certain to use cool baking sheets.

STORING

You can refrigerate the dough for up to 3 days. If you'd like, you can shape the dough into balls, place them on baking sheets, slide them into the freezer and then, when they're solid, pack them airtight. Let them stand at room temperature while you preheat the oven. You can keep the baked cookies covered at room temperature for at least 5 days, or wrap airtight and freeze for up to 2 months.

PLAYING AROUND

My Classic Best Chocolate Chip Cookies. While very similar to my newest cookies, these are a thinner cookie with less chew. They also don't have the new spice combination. (Of course, if you like the idea of nutmeg and coriander in your chippers, you can add them to this recipe.) The mixing method is the same. Here are the ingredients: 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon fine sea salt, 3/4 teaspoon baking soda, 1 cup sugar, 2/3 cup packed light brown sugar, 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract, 2 large eggs, 12 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped (or use chocolate chips), and 1 cup finely chopped walnuts or pecans. I use a slightly rounded tablespoon of dough for each cookie and bake them in a 375-degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes.

Menudo

TAQUERIA MEXICO,
WALLINGFORD

Many cuisines from around the world have their own distinctive soup or stew, in which the flavors of the region are showcased and given full room to shine. The true soup fanatic is of course familiar with Vietnamese pho, Hungarian goulash, Eastern European and Russian borscht and New England clam chowder.

For those who don't know already (woe unto you), Mexican menudo is the next step. A culinary diamond in the rough of factories, steel plants and car dealerships, Wallingford's Taqueria Mexico features this hearty dish only two days

a week, on
Saturday
and
Sunday.
Tender
cuts of



meat like pig knuckle, beef shank and tripe — common in Mexican food but less so to a *gringo* like myself — marinate in a broth of chilies, onions and lime. The resulting dish has an earthy, almost gamey taste. While the dish is not necessarily for everyone, give your palate a chance to adjust, and experience a truly unique taste. Even if you don't like the menudo, a burrito, taco or torta at this taqueria is good for what ails you.

203-265-0567

| MICHAEL LEE-MURPHY |

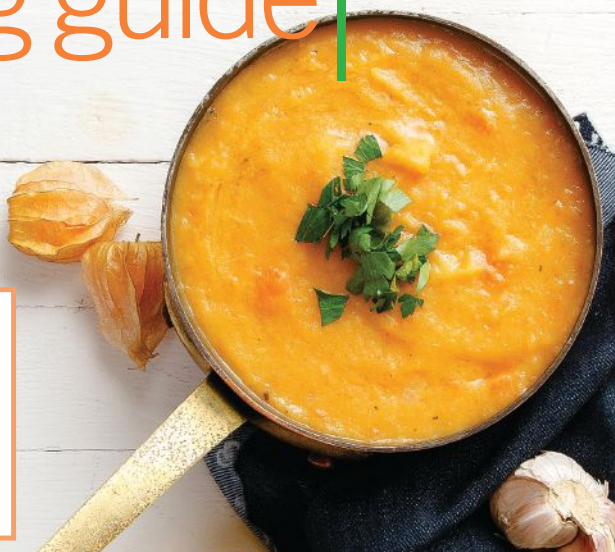


dining guide

MARCH 2017

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openings

A monthly look at some of what's new and exciting on the Connecticut dining scene

Blind Pig Pizza Co., Hartford Owned by Jamie McDonald of Bear's Smokehouse BBQ fame and occupying the original Bear's location on Arch Street, this restaurant combines two of the best things in the universe: pizza and barbecue. While Blind Pig offers a number of standard pies, the barbecue pizzas feature ingredients such as brisket, burnt ends and smoked pork belly. 860-555-1212, blindpiggizza.com

Peaches Southern Pub & Juke Joint, Norwalk It's hard not to be intrigued by a restaurant with the slogan "eat, drink, boogie, and repeat!" That's the mantra of Greer Fredericks, owner of this pub and restaurant dedicated to bourbon-laced, chicken-fried, Southern-style goodness. Fredericks is the former owner of Mama's Boy in Norwalk, and her new restaurant features dishes like county fair bacon, made with thick-cut bacon, funnel-cake batter and maple syrup, and topped with powdered sugar, and bayou mussels steamed in jambalaya broth, andouille, peppers, onion and garlic, served with country toast. 203-831-0399, peachesnorwalk.com

Castello of Niantic This classic Italian restaurant opened last summer and has since garnered lots of local acclaim, including being named one of the top restaurants of the year by *The Day's* food reviewers. It features Italian classics such as eggplant rollatini, vodka cream penne and calzones, as well as dishes with a regional flair, including Stonington scallops, served with bacon and asparagus atop a bed of roasted and sun-dried tomato risotto. 860-451-8880, castelloofniantic.com

Terra of Danbury The original Terra Restaurant is a successful spot in Greenwich. Terra's new sister location is found within the equally new Hotel Zero. Executive Chef Albert DeAngelis has crafted a menu focused on northern Italian cuisine. The restaurant also features a wine list more than 100 labels strong, and craft cocktails. 203-730-9595, zhospitalitygroup.com/terradanbury

Pho Ketkeo, New Haven Pho, aka rice noodle soup, has become an unequivocal force on the Connecticut dining scene. One of the newer entrants into this increasingly crowded, and always steaming, arena is Pho Ketkeo, which opened last spring. But at Pho Ketkeo there is a twist: unlike most pho restaurants, it draws its influence not from Vietnamese pho traditions but from Laotian ones. In addition, Pho Ketkeo offers a wide range of rare, at least in Connecticut, Laotian cuisine. 203-745-5480, phoketkeo.com

Know of a new Connecticut restaurant?
Email Erik Ofgang at eofgang@connecticutmag.com

Fairfield County

Amba Vilas Palace • Indian • EP Dedicated to creating the finest-quality products by using only the very best ingredients from around the world. • 54 Pembroke Road, Danbury, 203-746-6425 ambavilaspalace.com. Closed Mon. L D, \$\$\$

Bar Sugo • Italian • EP RC This beloved Italian restaurant bills itself as the place where "modern Italian meets peasant food." That philosophy shines through in its delicious offerings. • 102 Wall St., Norwalk, 203-956-7134 barsugo.com. Open daily. D SB, \$\$\$, WA

Basso Cafe • Mediterranean Casual fine dining establishment offering Mediterranean Latin fusion cuisine in a cozy and chic atmosphere. Bar offers a full wine, beer and craft cocktail list. • 124 New Canaan Ave., Norwalk, 203-354-6566 www.bassobistrocafe.com. Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sat.), D, \$\$\$

Bloodroot • Vegetarian • EP RC Offers a seasonal menu that might include Vietnamese summer rolls, the Bloodroot burger and Mexican mole. • 85 Ferris St., Bridgeport, 203-576-9168 bloodroot.com. Closed Mon. L (Tues., Thurs.-Sat.) D SB, \$\$\$, WA

Brick + Wood • Pizza/Italian • EP This artisan pizza emporium offers some of the best Napolitano-style pizza in the state. • 1275 Post Road, Fairfield, 203-939-1400 lovelifeandpizza.com. Closed Mon. L, D, \$\$\$

Butcher's Best Country Market • Deli Meats are hand-selected, trimmed and cooked, prepared take-home or in your favorite sandwich to go. Traditional and special salads are also available. • 125 S. Main St., Newtown, 203-364-0013 butchersbestmarket.com. Closed Sun. L, \$

Elm • American World-class chef Brian Lewis makes culinary magic here — with the freshest local, top-quality ingredients — in an elegant minimalist environment. And there's a great Sunday brunch. • 73 Elm St., New Canaan, 203-920-4994 elmrestaurant.com. Closed Mon. D SB, \$\$\$, WA

Flipside Burgers & Bar • American Flipside features creative burgers, appetizers, salads & cocktails. Happy Hour Monday-Saturday 3-6pm in the bar featuring 1/2 priced drinks & \$3 small plates. • 1125 Post Rd. Fairfield, 203-292-8233 flipsiderestaurant.com. Kitchen open daily. L D, \$\$\$

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • Pizza While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 238 Commerce Drive, Fairfield, 203-333-7373; 59 Federal Road, Danbury, 203-790-7373 pepespizzeria.com. Open daily. L D, \$, WA

Geronimo Tequila Bar & Southwest Grill • Southwestern Fusion • EP Mix of traditional Native American, Mexican, Spanish and Anglo-American fare, with bold flavors and authentic ingredients. • 2070 Post Road, Fairfield, 203-955-1643 geronimobarandgrill.com. Open daily. L D LS, \$\$\$

Homestead Inn — Thomas Henkelmann • French Upscale French restaurant features impeccable service, comfortable surroundings, an extensive wine list and creative French food. • 420 Field Point Road, Greenwich, 203-869-7500 homesteadinn.com/thomas-henkelmann. Closed Sun.-Mon. L (Tues.-Fri.), D, \$\$\$

Ichiro • Sushi • EP Ichiro offers a combination of Asian fusion, sushi and hibachi entrees. Enjoy the full-service bar and the shows put on by the hibachi chef. • 69 Newtown Road, Danbury, 203-792-8881 ichirodanbury.com. Open daily. D, LS (Fri.-Sat.), \$\$\$

Joseph's Steakhouse • American • EP Known for a New York-style steakhouse experience with gems such as prime dry-aged beef. • 360 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, 203-337-9944 josephssteakhouse.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$\$\$, WA

Liana's Trattoria • Italian • EP Traditional Italian cuisine served in the atmosphere of an authentic Italian bistro. • 591 Tunxis Hill Road, Fairfield, 203-368-1235. Closed Sun.-Mon. D, \$\$\$, WA

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CONNECTICUT Magazine's restaurant listings are presented as a service to our readers. Information on specialties, prices, etc., was supplied by the restaurateurs. Space limitations in this guide prevent us from describing every restaurant in the state; omission is not intended to reflect upon the quality of an establishment. The listings include restaurants we know and love, and those recommended to us by our readers. Average entrée prices are based on dinner entrées: \$ — inexpensive (under \$15); \$\$ — moderate (\$15-\$25); \$\$\$ — expensive (over \$25). This guide is updated regularly, but it is suggested that prices and hours be verified by phone. B (Breakfast); L (Lunch); D (Dinner); LS (Late Supper); SB (Sunday Brunch); E (Live Entertainment); WA (Wheelchair Access); EP = 2017 Experts' Pick; RC = 2017 Readers' Choice.

Local Kitchen and Bar • American • EP Craft beer is the name of the game here with more than 30 lines including rare local, national and international gems. There is also a full menu of classic American cuisine. • 68 Washington St., Norwalk, 203-957-3352; 85 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, 203-955-1919 sonolocal.com, fairfieldlocal.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$, WA

Pho Vietnam • Vietnamese • EP RC A family-owned restaurant serving authentic Vietnamese food with fresh produce, choice meats and seafood. • 56 Padanaram Road, Danbury, 203-743-6049 rivebistro.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

Positano Ristorante • Italian This restaurant has been owned and operated by the Scarpato family for more than 15 years. Owner and chef Giuseppe Scarpato was born on the island of Ponza, Italy, and his cuisine focuses on all-natural cooking, with fresh fishes, meats, fruits, vegetables, and aromatic herbs. • 27 Powers Court, Westport, 203-454-4922 positanosrestaurantwestport.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$, E

Redding Roadhouse • American This cozy, classic-style pub features seafood and meat classics as well as an assortment of artisan cheeses, a good beer list and specialty cocktails. • 406 Redding Road, Redding, 203-938-3388 thereddingroadhouse.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$, E, WA

Roberto's • Italian • RC Excellent Italian food with attentive service, plus catering and a full-service banquet facility. • 505 Main St., Monroe, 203-268-5723 robertosmonroe.com. Open daily. L (Sun.), D, \$\$

Sale Pepe Contemporary Italian Bistro • Northern Italian • RC Offers superb cuisine with a contemporary flair, from fresh pastas and sauces to unique specials and classics with a modern twist. • 97 South Main St., Newtown, 203-426-0805 salepeperestaurant.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

The Schoolhouse at Cannondale • American • EP With the motto "Fine. Fresh. Simple," the owners seek out the best sources of ingredients and treat them simply and with respect. • 34 Cannon Road, Wilton, 203-834-9816 schoolhouseatcannondale.com. Closed Mon. L (Fri., Sat) D (Wed., Fri., Sat.) SB, \$\$\$

Shiki Hana • Sushi • EP This low-key restaurant offers a variety of sushi rolls, hibachi dishes and Japanese bento meals. • 222 Post Road, Fairfield, 203-259-5950 shikihanafairfield.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, \$\$

The Sitting Duck Tavern • American Neighborhood tavern committed to using regionally and locally grown produce and products. • 3694 Main St., Stratford, 203-873-0871 sittingducktavern.com. Open daily. L D LS SB, \$\$

The Spinning Wheel • American • RC Enjoy a quintessentially New England-inspired menu with seasonal specials, local and homegrown accents, and modern adaptations of traditional comfort dishes. This classic style pub has 12 types of beer on tap, a rum-inspired drink menu and is housed within a newly renovated historic saltbox style house that dates back to 1742. • 109 Black Rock Tpke., Redding, 203-664-4000 swredding.com. Open daily. L (Thurs.-Sat.) D, \$\$\$, WA

The Spread • American • EP The owners are industry leaders in culinary deviance and solutions, and are focused on delivering great dining experiences. • 70 N Main St., Norwalk, 203-939-1111 thespreadono.com. Open daily. D SB, \$\$

Stanzio's • Pizza • EP Wood-fired pizza made using organic, seasonal ingredients from local farms and artisans. • 35 Lake Ave. Ext., Danbury, 203-885-1057 stanzios.com. Closed Sun. L (Mon.-Fri.), D, \$, WA

Tequila Mockingbird • Mexican The food here is made with traditional ingredients when possible, including imported chiles. Tequila is taken seriously as well, with bartenders receiving tequila training in Mexico. • 6 Forest St., New Canaan, 203-966-2222 tequilamockingbirdnc.com. Open daily. D, \$\$

Valencia Luncheria • Latin American • EP Venezuelan cuisine served up in large portions in a bright, relaxed atmosphere. • 164 Main St., Norwalk, 203-846-8009 valencialuncheria.com. Open daily. B L D, \$\$

Wafu Asian Bistro • Asian Upscale dining with a frequently changing menu that utilizes local ingredients. • 3671 Post Road, Southport, 203-254-2288 wafuasianbistro.com. Open daily. L D, \$

Walrus + Carpenter • Barbecue • EP Sink your teeth into the barbecue offered at this sleek eatery in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. The customer favorite is the Notorious P.I.G. • 2895 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, 203-333-2733 walruscarpenterct.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

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Hartford County

Apricots Restaurant & Pub • American • EP

Contemporary cuisine featuring regional American products as well as a selection of items from Europe and the Far East. • 1593 Farmington Ave., Farmington, 860-673-5405 apricotsrestaurant.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$

@the Barn • American This 170-seat, 4,000-square-foot ultra-sleek steakhouse and wine bar features multiple dining areas, steaks, seafood, small plates and a wine list selected by a certified sommelier, as well as a wide array of martinis, specialty cocktails and craft beers. • 17R E. Granby Road, Granby, 860-413-3888 atthebarngranby.com. Closed Mon. L D (Tues.-Sun.), \$\$, WA

Barcelona Restaurant & Wine Bar • Spanish

Mediterranean • EP Barcelona's newest location in a popular line of hip, European-style restaurants. • 971 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, 860-218-2100 barcelonawinebar.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D LS, \$\$, E, WA

Besito • Mexican • EP Besito (in English, "little kiss") offers up authentic Mexican food and over 60 world-class tequilas in an atmosphere of old, rustic Mexico. • 46 South Main St., West Hartford, 860-233-2500 besitomexican.com. Open daily. L D LS, \$\$

Bricco Trattoria • Italian • EP Creates the feel of an Italian farm house or vineyard home, with simple, fresh and delicious food and time-honored recipes. • 124 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, 860-659-0220 billygrant.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, \$\$\$

Carbone's Kitchen • Italian Established in 2012, this casual-dining little brother to Carbone's Ristorante uses fresh and local ingredients to prepare old-school Italian classics. • 6 Wintonbury Mall, Bloomfield, 860-904-2111 carboneskitchen.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$\$, WA

Carbone's Ristorante • Italian This old-school, fine-dining Italian restaurant was established in 1938 and has survived as long as it has for a reason. Dishes include lobster risotto, grilled veal chop and eggplant, chicken and veal parmigiano. • 588 Franklin Ave., Hartford, 860-296-9646 carbonescr.com. Closed Sun. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$\$\$, WA

Confetti • Italian Offers Italian-American cuisine with a celebratory vibe. Also caters and operates the Big Red Truck food truck. • 393 Farmington Ave., Plainville, 860-793-8809 idineconfetti.com. Closed Mon. & Tues. D (Wed.-Sun.) SB, \$\$

The Cottage • American • EP Family-owned, European-style restaurant offers unique, seasonally inspired dishes and a wide selection of wines, martinis and cocktails. • 427 Farmington Ave., Plainville, 860-793-8888 cottagerestaurantandcafe.com. Closed Sun. & Mon. L (Tues.-Fri.), D, \$\$

Firebox • New American • EP Firebox boasts a seasonal, Connecticut farm-inspired menu including seared Stonington scallops and Connecticut farm-raised lamb. • 539 Broad St., Hartford, 860-246-1222 fireboxrestaurant.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$\$, E, WA

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar • American • EP Premier destination for prime meats and chops, fresh fish and poultry, with a sophisticated wine list. • Blue Back Square, 44 South Main St., West Hartford, 860-676-7196 flemingssteakhouse.com. Open daily. D, \$\$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • Pizza While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, any pie here is worth the wait. • 1148 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, 860-236-7373; 221 Buckland Hills Drive, Manchester, 860-644-7333 pepespizzeria.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$, WA

GoldBurgers • Burgers • EP The big (with a capital B) juicy specialties at GoldBurgers are all made with locally sourced beef and include the venue's namesake, the GoldBurger, a monster of a burger made with two patties and crowned by potato chips. • 1096 Main St., Newington, 860-665-0478. Open daily. L D, \$, WA

J. Gilbert's • Steak • EP Quality ingredients and honest food, like prime wood-fired steaks and seafood, in a luxe, yet warm, atmosphere. • 185 Glastonbury Blvd., Glastonbury, 860-659-0409 jgilberts.com. Open daily. D, \$\$\$

Max Downtown • American • EP Features global cuisine, chophouse classics, a fine wine list and lighter fare in the tavern. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 185 Asylum St., Hartford, 860-522-2530 maxrestaurantgroup.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, \$\$\$, WA

Max Fish • Seafood Lively, upscale fish house serving a daily selection of fresh seafood and great steaks. The Shark Bar is more casual, offering lighter fare and Max classics in an up-tempo environment. • 110 Glastonbury Blvd., Glastonbury, 860-652-3474 maxfishct.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D LS, \$\$

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Max's Oyster Bar • Seafood • EP Modern renditions of classic American seafood in an atmosphere reminiscent of a big-city oyster bar. • 964 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, 860-236-6299 maxrestaurantgroup.com/oyster. Open daily. L, D, LS (Sat.), \$\$\$

Murasaki • Sushi • EP Well known for its outstanding sushi and sashimi creations, Murasaki also offers a selection of American foods served in the Japanese style. • 23 LaSalle Road, West Hartford, 860-236-7622 murasakijapaneserestaurant.com. Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sat.), D, \$\$\$

ON20 • Contemporary French / American • EP Savor panoramic city views and sophisticated atmosphere along with sumptuous seasonal cuisine. • 400 Columbus Blvd., 20th Floor, Hartford, 860-722-5161 ontwenty.com. L (Mon.-Fri.) D (Wed.-Sat.) L D, \$\$\$, E

Pho 501 • Asian • EP Dedicated to keeping it simple, with the best soups and authentic Vietnamese family recipes. • 501 Main St., East Hartford, 860-569-3700 pho.com/east-hartford-ct/pho-501. Closed Mon. L D, \$

Plan B Burger Bar • Burgers Gourmet burgers and a wide selection of beers and bourbons. • 120 Hebron Ave. #6, Glastonbury, 860-430-9737 planbburger.com. Open daily. L D LS, \$, WA

Rooster Co. • American • EP Rotisserie chickens made to perfection are the heart and soul of menu here. • 1076 Main St., Newington, 860-757-3969 roostercompany.net. Open daily L D, \$, WA

Ruth's Chris Steakhouse • Steak Billed as "the steak that speaks for itself" the steaks served here are USDA Prime. In addition, the restaurant utilizes locally sourced produce in its recipes. • 2513 Berlin Tpke., Newington, 860-666-2202 ruthschris.com. Open daily. L (Sun.) D, \$\$\$, WA

Staropolska • Polish • EP Authentic homemade Polish cuisine prepared fresh daily and an in-house bar. • 252 Broad St., New Britain, 860-612-1711 staropolska.net. Closed Mon. L D, \$

Treva • Italian • EP Cuisine is inspired from central and upper Italy, with seasonal varieties and unique nightly specials. • 980 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, 860-232-0407 treva.com. Open daily. L D, LS (Fri.-Sat.), \$\$\$

Trumbull Kitchen • American "Global comfort food" is served at communal tables at this sophisticated city brasserie. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 150 Trumbull St., Hartford, 860-493-7417 maxrestaurantgroup.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D LS, \$, E

Vinted Wine Bar & Kitchen • Tapas This exciting restaurant in Blue Back Square serves 68 wines by the glass along with an ambitious small-plates menu. • 63 Memorial Road, West Hartford, 860-206-4648 vintedwinebar.com. Open daily. D, \$, WA

Litchfield County

Arethusa al Tavolo • New American • EP RC This high-flying, country restaurant serves sparkling dishes like butter-poached halibut with crab paella, rack of lamb and a glorious reinvention of Peking duck. • 828 Bantam Road, Bantam, 860-567-0043 arethusaatavolo.com. Open Thurs.-Sun. D, \$\$\$, WA

Community Table • American • EP Chef Joel Viehland offers a seasonal menu using only ingredients grown, raised or foraged within a 200-mile radius. • 223 Litchfield Tpke., Washington, 860-868-9354 communitytablect.com. Closed Tues.-Wed. D SB, \$, WA

The Cookhouse • Barbecue • EP "Slo-smoked" baby-back ribs and pulled pork are the name of the game here. • 31 Danbury Road (Route 7), New Milford, 860-355-4111 thecookhouse.com. Open daily. L D, \$, WA

The Hopkins Inn • Austrian/American A country inn with an Old World atmosphere known for wiener schnitzel, backhendl and fresh-caught trout. • 22 Hopkins Road, Warren, 860-868-7295. Closed Mon. B L (Tues.-Sat.) D, \$\$\$

Litchfield Saltwater Grille • Seafood Casual and fine dining with seafood, raw bar, meat, vegetarian and kids menu options. Happy hour is Mon.-Fri 4-6 p.m., and the lounge is open late Fri. & Sat. Outdoor patio and private dining available. • 26 Commons Drive, Route 202, Litchfield, 860-567-4900 litchfieldsaltwatergrille.org. Open daily. \$, E, WA

Mountainside Café • Farm to Table Modern rustic cafe offers up a fresh approach to American classics, such as the Country Burger and the Johnny Cash Skillet, in a warm and casual atmosphere. • 251 Route 7 South, Falls Village, 860-824-7876 mountainside.com/cafe. Open daily. B L D SB, \$, WA

CONTINUES ON PAGE 106

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HOW TO SELL YOUR HOUSE — FAST

7 TIPS You Need to Know

Selling a house isn't easy. In fact, it's something that many families dread. Chances are that you've heard horror stories about houses that sat for years on the market without selling, gradually decreasing in price.

If you've been thinking about selling your home and you want to ditch your house as quickly as possible, there are a few ways that you can help your house sell fast. There are some factors you can't control, like location or noisy neighbors. Fortunately, there are seven important things you can do to give your house the best shot at selling.

1. Fix what's broken

Buyers are always looking for the perfect move-in-ready home, so fixing your home is key. If your house needs a lot of help, focus on the major problems in your home. Need a new roof? Buy one. A new owner will not want to put a new roof on the house unless you're offering the home at a serious discount. Remember that most families want something they can move into right away without spending months working on. If there are problems with the home that you can easily fix, whether it be chipping paint or a broken fence post, try to fix them before you list your house.

2. Update your appliances

It's important to remember that homebuyers have specific items they look for in a home. For many buyers great

appliances are number one on their wish list for a home. That's where you come in. While you probably can't afford to update every one of your home's appliances, take a hard look at what your current setup looks like. Is the stove outdated? Is the fridge about to die? Dropping a few hundred dollars on a new fridge, dishwasher or oven might not be the way you want to spend your money, but it could help you sell your house. If someone sees an old stove sitting in the middle of the kitchen that looks like it's about to break, they may wonder what else is going to break if they buy the house.

3. Take breathtaking pictures

You probably know that you need to take pictures of your house. Pictures are one of the most important ways that you can draw in potential buyers. If someone is looking for a new home, they'll typically take a look at real estate websites before setting up showings or attending open houses. Because so many shoppers look online before they decide to explore a house in person, it's important that your pictures look great. Consider hiring a professional photographer to really showcase your home. Make sure that you take pictures of both the home's interior and exterior. If you have a large yard, try to showcase that. If you just planted roses, take a few pictures. If your master bathroom is enormous, take a picture. Highlight the best areas of your home and skip the ones that are less attractive to buyers.

4. Ditch your clutter

Clearing out junk is easier said than done, but if you want to sell your house quickly, you need to ditch your clutter. Get rid of extra papers, magazines or memorabilia that is sitting around your house. Clean out beneath your beds. Get rid of that pile of clothes next to your dresser. When people walk through your house, they want to imagine what it will be like to live in the home. Even if you can't get rid of all of your home's clutter, try to at least minimize the amount of things you have on shelves and on counters to present a clean, neat appearance to buyers.

5. Advertise, advertise, advertise

Your agent will be the first to tell you: you need to focus on advertising. Remember that buyers probably won't drive by your house and see the "For Sale" sign in your yard. Rather, they'll find your house online, in a newspaper or on a brochure. List your house on as many real estate websites as possible, share it on Facebook and try to promote it as much as possible for the best results.

6. Price fairly

You've spent years developing memories in your house, so it's normal to want to attach a price tag to those. Unfortunately, the reality is that you can't afford to ask too much for your house. Remember that buyers are looking for a good deal. They want to know that they're getting their money's worth when they buy a house. Take a look at what other houses are selling for in your area and price your home accordingly. If you aren't sure how much to ask for your house, don't be afraid to contact a real estate agent to ask for help.

7. Don't be choosy

One mistake that many sellers make is to turn down offers because they don't like the family. Even if you don't like the person that offers to buy your house, realize that you don't have any control over what happens to your home once you sell it. If the buyer wants to tear down walls, paint everything green or add a bunch of garden gnomes to the yard, that's their decision. For a quick sell, don't be choosy about your offers. Sell your home to the first person who makes an offer that is reasonable and that you're comfortable with.

**See Our Special Section
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Award Winners**

How We Identify Award Winners

- The 2017 Five Star Real Estate Agents, Mortgage Professionals and Home/Auto Insurance Professionals do not pay a fee to be included in the research or the final list.
- Each professional is screened against state governing bodies to verify that licenses are current and no disciplinary actions are pending.
- The inclusion of a real estate agent, mortgage professional or insurance professional on the final lists should not be construed as an endorsement by Five Star Professional or Connecticut magazine.

- The research process incorporates a statistically valid sample in order to identify the professionals in the local market who score highest in overall satisfaction. These professionals are not included on the list unless their score is statistically valid.

For more information on the Five Star award and the research/selection methodology, go to www.fivestarprofessional.com.

Determination of Award Winners

Professionals who satisfied each of the following objective criteria were named a 2017 Connecticut Five Star Real Estate Agent, Five Star Mortgage Professional

or Five Star Home/Auto Insurance Professional:

1. Received a qualifying client satisfaction rating.
2. Satisfied the applicable state licensing requirements.
3. Actively employed as a licensed professional for a minimum of three years.
4. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review.
5. Satisfied minimum client volume or production on a one-year and three-year basis (number and volume of transactions or number of client households served).

SUSAN RESCH

Professional and Knowledgeable



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

Seven-year winner Susan Resch



William Raveis Real Estate

44 Old Ridgefield Road | Wilton, CT 06897

Office: 203-762-8300 | Cell: 203-644-5055

susanresch@aol.com | susanresch.com

- Expert negotiator with integrity
- Top 10 producer company-wide — William Raveis
- Office top producer
- Full-service real estate professional
- Excellent advice and personal service

Susan has a wealth of experience in the Fairfield County real estate area and has listed and sold premier properties, starter homes for the first-time buyer and everything in between.

Her very successful career speaks for her ability to consistently exceed expectations. She offers expert advice with personal service, is results-oriented and can close the deal. Susan is consistently ranked as a top associate based on CMLS statistics and has been awarded multiple achievements.

"I am honored to be selected as a Five Star Real Estate Agent award winner again this year and would like to thank my clients for their continued support." — Susan Resch

Theresa and her team have earned a reputation for surpassing client expectations via:

- Professional excellence
- Deep industry knowledge
- Extraordinary integrity
- Dedication to service
- Skilled negotiating
- Achievement of results

What clients say:

"Theresa is a top-notch professional across all dimensions of the real estate transaction. She's extraordinarily skilled, responsive and committed to a successful outcome." — S. M., Wilton

"Theresa is a pro — she's in the upper echelon of her field. When you're trying to sell your home, what you want is to hire 'the best and the brightest.' That's why we chose Theresa. She's amazing." — M. H., Stamford



William Raveis Real Estate

44 Old Ridgefield Road | Wilton, CT 06897

Cell: 203-858-7947 | Office: 203-682-9352

Theresa.Blinder@Raveis.com | www.TheresaBlinder.com

THERESA BLINDER

Sales Vice President and Luxury/Distinctive Properties Specialist



TWO-YEAR WINNER

Two-year winner Theresa Blinder

**My Sincere Thanks to Clients and Colleagues
for This Award and Recognition**

- Diamond Medallion Production Award, 2015 – 2016
- Unparalleled service and support
- 90% of sales from past clients/referrals
- Representing home buyers and sellers
- Serving the Shoreline and Greater New Haven areas
- Building relationships through trust and dedication

Our mission is to provide you with the kind of service you won't find anywhere else. For most people, an investment in real estate is one of their most significant assets. When buying or selling a home, you want someone who can do a lot more than show you property. That's the easy part. You need a Realtor® who is a good listener, skilled negotiator and trusted advisor. A professional that can take you through the process as seamlessly as possible. Someone who can acquaint you with the community and provide you with services that will make the transition more manageable. If that's what you are looking for, give us a call.



89 Whitfield Street | Guilford, CT 6437

Paula: 203-434-1868 | Heather: 203-314-1301 | Matt: 203-806-5383
 cttownandshorepartners@pagetaft.com | cttownandshorepartners.com

CT TOWN AND SHORE PARTNERS



SIX-YEAR WINNER

Left to right: Six-year winner Paula "PB" Baraket;
 Matt Healy; Three-year winner Heather Dacey

Awarding Our Clients With Superior Service

VICKIE L. KELLEY

Broker, Principal, Owner



2017 WINNER

2017 winner Vickie L. Kelley

Vickie L. Kelley: A Past President-Mid-Fairfield-County Association of Realtors, RPAC Trustee, Vice President-SB-Region 1-Connecticut Association Realtors and a Founding Director of CT Statewide MLS.

Camelot Real Estate

190 Weston Road | Weston, CT 06883
 Cell: 203-803-6448 | Office: 203-226-3568
 www.camelotre

From Cottages to Castles ... Where Legendary Service Is No Myth!

"Make an impact, deliver with excellence and maintain your reputation and integrity in everything you do!" is Vickie's mantra! She has built her business on dedication, communication, determination and trust while striving to achieve her clients' needs. She listens carefully and tailors advice to complement the clients' point of view. "Ethically representing your interests is my top priority — by combining exceptional client-focused real estate services with strategies that deliver," she says. Exemplifying success through 37 years of experience, creativity and leadership, she is known as a consummate professional and real estate influencer; her very successful career speaks for her ability to consistently exceed expectations and her track record says it all. Vickie is committed to offering the highest quality representation and an array of concierge real estate services specializing in Weston and lower Fairfield County.

Vickie is honored to receive the Five Star Real Estate Agent award — proudly selected by clients, colleagues and peers!

JOHN M. ZUBRETSKY III AND JOHN M. ZUBRETSKY, JR.

**Let Our Award Winning Company Help You
Achieve Your Real Estate Goals! Weichert Works!**



2017 WINNER

Left to right:
2017 Rising Star Real Estate Agent John M. Zubretsky III;
2017 Five Star Real Estate Agent John M. Zubretsky, Jr.



The Zubretsky Group

449 Silas Deane Highway | Wethersfield, CT 06109

Office: 860-263-2121 | Direct: 860-883-7649

JZ3@weichert.com | www.thezubretskygroup.com

- No. 1 Weichert office in Connecticut, President's Cup award winner
- Innovative marketing strategies
- Industry leading response time

The Zubretsky Group is proudly serving the state of Connecticut for over 39 years. We specialize in residential, foreclosure, short sale, REO, corporate relocation and commercial real estate. Choosing a real estate agent who has the tools, skills and experience to make your dreams come true can be as challenging as the home buying process itself. Get a positive, helpful partner you can trust for buying or selling a home.

John M. Zubretsky III grew up in Wethersfield, Connecticut, was licensed at age 18 and attended Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. Full time real estate professional since 2012 assisting buyers and sellers throughout Connecticut. When not selling real estate he enjoys rooting on the UConn Huskies, golf, skiing and spending time with his daughter, Ella.

John M. Zubretsky, Jr. has been actively involved in real estate since 1977. He enjoys the same things as John M. Zubretsky III, especially granddaughter Ella! Father and son "Team Z," closed 120 units last year with over 20 million in sales!

LINDA JOHNSON

Realtor



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

75 Brace Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107
Cell: 860-543-0909
Office: 860-882-0403

lindaj@remax-premier-ct.com
www.LindaJohnsonSells.com

**Exceeding
Expectations Since
1982**

- 95% of my business is repeat clients or referrals
- Vision, energy and the drive to get it done
- Professional photography and staging consult included
- Expert pre-listing renovation project management
- Skilled negotiation and creative problem-solving

"This was our third transaction with Linda Johnson. Knowing the market and what it would take to get it done quickly, she made the right suggestions for cleaning, painting, staging, photos, open houses and pricing. She has the know-how, is a total professional and will keep the process moving without losing her sense of humor. She makes it all look easy and just gets it done. I cannot recommend her highly enough." — grdonofrio

HARRY FINER

Realtor, Sales VP, Properties Specialist, Condominium Sales Specialist, SFR®



FIVE-YEAR WINNER

Five-year winner Harry Finer

Finer Services — Finer Results

Harry is a professional sales and marketing manager with more than 40 years' experience. He consistently exceeds the goals and expectations of his clients while leveraging creative marketing techniques and emerging technology. Harry has been recognized by William Raveis Real Estate throughout his career representing them as a high achiever with excellent client satisfaction ratings. This past year he doubled his sales volume to over \$20 million.



WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE

218 New London Tpk. | Glastonbury, CT 06033

Cell: 860-882-4911 | Fax: 860-760-3633

harry.finer@raveis.com | harryfiner.raveis.com

From Cottages to Castles

- Exceptional customer service
- World-class market intelligence
- A driving passion for my clients' success
- 98% of my clients refer my services



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
New England Properties

15A Main St.
Essex, CT 06426

Phone: 860-575-0754

aruelhomes@live.com

www.aruel.bhhsneproperties.com

It is a tremendous satisfaction to know that hard work, a steady hand and unyielding compassion for my clients' success have again allowed me to be honored with the Five Star Real Estate Agent award for the seventh straight year! As a respected professional and lifelong resident, my years of knowledge and local expertise on the Connecticut shore and lower Connecticut River valley have been unrivaled assets to both local and international clientele. Honesty and trust are key in this ever-changing market. I tell my clients what they need to hear, not what they want to hear, so knowledgeable and positive outcomes are achieved.

ANGELA RUEL

Realtor, ABR®, SRES®, e-PRO®



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



THREE-YEAR WINNER



Three-year winner Danielle Riendeau;
2017 Rising Star Real Estate Agent Chad Glucksman

Top 1% Nationally – Platinum Award Winners (Keller Williams Realty)

PREMIER PARTNERS
REAL ESTATE

172 Oakwood Drive | Glastonbury, CT 06033
Danielle: 860-550-5323 | Chad: 860-368-7257
www.PremierPartnersRealEstate.com

“Your heart has to be in the right place — you have to genuinely desire to make a difference in your clients' lives.”

— Five Star award winner

I am honored to receive this prestigious award. As a Realtor for over 30 years, my career integrates my passion for helping people while serving the needs of both buyers and sellers locally, and, throughout Connecticut, Nationally and Worldwide. Providing quality service is my priority. To my clients, I give a heartfelt thank-you for this recognition.

KAREN MARTIN

Realtor

**Quality Service,
Dedication and
Results!**



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

CENTURY 21
AllPoints Realty

17 Main St.
Hebron, CT 06428
Direct: 860-337-7823
Cell: 860-559-8903
KarenMartinHomes@aol.com

A heartfelt thank-you to my clients for honoring me with this prestigious award seven years in a row! Finding the perfect home for you and your loved ones is my passion. Whether it is buying or selling, I look forward to building new relationships and helping you achieve your real estate dreams in 2017.

NANCY LYDELL

Realtor, ABR®, CRS



330 S Main St.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: 203-272-1822, Ext. 349
nancy_lydell@calcagni.com



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

NANCY DANSEREAU

Marketing and Sales
Associate, Realtor

- 14 years of experience
- Well executed closings
- Thank you to all my clients; past, present and future



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

Making Clients for Life With Superior Service



752 Boston Post Road | Madison, CT 06443
Cell: 860-301-5148
nancy.dansereau@cbmoves.com | ndahomes.com

**PAT
CARDOZO**ABR®, MBA,
Certified Negotiation Expert

- Recommended for a reason!
- 100% client satisfaction
- Honesty, integrity and commitment
- Market expertise



SIX-YEAR WINNER

Real Service. Real Results.

270 Amity Road | Woodbridge, CT 06525
Office: 203-392-3357 | Cell: 203-824-2177
patcardozo@snet.net | welcometowoodbridge.com

It is an honor to have been chosen as a 2017 Connecticut Five Star Real Estate Agent award winner and be featured in *Connecticut* magazine for the fourth time. I take pride in assisting my clients with one of the most important decisions they will make. My frequent communication, market knowledge, honesty and dedication will help me provide the same quality service to my current and future clients. A special thank-you to all of my past clients who made this award possible.



Prospect, CT 06712
Cell: 203-228-0213
Office: 203-758-3128
jwaters@parkviewpropertiesllc.com
www.parkviewpropertiesllc.com
www.facebook.com/joseph.waters.7777

**JOSEPH
WATERS**Broker/Partner, Accredited
Buyer's Representative
(ABR®), Short Sales and
Foreclosure Resource
Certification (SFR®), SRS**Service You
Can Trust**

FOUR-YEAR WINNER

It has been my privilege to work with outstanding clients and I truly appreciate the trust and confidence they have placed in me. I am honored to have their continued support and long-term relationships. My client's needs are always my priority. I strive to listen to identify those needs, set realistic goals and then pursue them with a customized plan of action. I take my commitment to provide my clients with a five-star real estate experience very seriously. We are a Homes for Heroes affiliate.

Puorro Realty Group

75 Berlin Rd., Ste. 104
Cromwell, CT 06416
Cell: 860-558-9740
barbara@puorrorealtygroup.com
www.puorrorealtygroup.com

**BARBARA
PUORRO**Broker/Owner, SRES®, CDPE,
MRP, SFR®, SRES®, AHS**Taking You Beyond
the Expected**

FIVE-YEAR WINNER

LAUREEN KENNEDY

Realtor, CRS, SRES®, ABR®, e-PRO®



FOUR-YEAR WINNER



680 S Main St.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: 203-671-1817
laureen.kennedy@cbmoves.com
www.laureenkennedy.com

- Service-oriented
- Customer-centered
- Negotiates with win

I have been privileged to work with some great clients who have become personal friends. I am also fortunate that I have many who are repeat clients and who refer me to their family and friends. No matter how long it takes to find the perfect home or to sell a unique property, I give every client 150 percent until the job is done.

I am honored and humbled to be chosen, once again, for this award. With over 38 years of experience, knowledge and dedication, 75 percent of my business comes from past clients/referrals. My future business depends on my past track record. Thank you to my past clients for your confidence in me to *get the job done!*

**Rupwani Associates
Real Estate**

221 Bank St.
Seymour, CT 06483
Office: 203-888-1380, Ext. 220
Toll-free: 800-835-7653, Ext. 220
rrmba@aol.com
www.RupwaniAssociates.com

**ROSALIE
AVERILL**President – Valley
Association of Realtors,
2016 and 2017

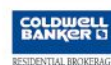
SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

MARILYN JACOBS

Realtor, PSCS®, Previews Property Specialist



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER



86 Halls Rd.
Old Lyme, CT 06371
Phone: 860-434-8600
Cell: 860-304-6264
Marilyn.Jacobs@CBMoves.com
MarilynJacobs.net

Assisting Clients in Attaining Their Real Estate Goals!

My heartfelt thanks to each and every one who was instrumental in my receiving this prestigious award. Your confidence and loyalty throughout the years are sincerely appreciated. I feel privileged to have been able to work with you, and I'm honored to be given this recognition. No doubt about it — the client/Realtor relationship is a team effort, and great partnerships make successful transactions and successful agents... many, many thanks!

**BILL
SAGE**

Realtor, ABR®, e-PRO®



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

Your Shoreline Realtor

- No. 1 Realtor in Old Saybrook for residential sales, 2015 (Conn. MLS)

Bill has a long record of exemplary customer service, extensive local knowledge and a proven track record. His expertise is invaluable to clients in buying or selling in all shoreline communities.



21 Main Street | Old Saybrook, CT 06010
Phone: 860-227-1905
Bill.Sage@cbmoves.com | www.billsage.net

Thank you for your confidence and support. With over 30 years of experience and with the help of a great business partner, Roberta Havlick, let us be your key to the right move. Whether buying or selling, we passionately serve our clients in Cheshire and all the surrounding communities.

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karen.brimberg@raveis.com
karenbrimberg.raveis.com

**KAREN S.
BRIMBERG**

Realtor, CHP

**Your Dream
Home Awaits**

SIX-YEAR WINNER

**IRMA
NESSON**

ABR®, CRS, GRI, Realtor

**Experience,
Knowledge, and
Satisfied Clients**

I am delighted and honored to be selected by my clients for this prestigious award and am humbled to be the recipient of this award for the sixth year. I derive tremendous satisfaction from being a Realtor. The wonderful relationships I have made remain very special to me.



330 S Main St.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: 203-671-1706
Irma_Nesson@calcagni.com
calcagni.com/IrmaNesson



SIX-YEAR WINNER

It is an honor and a privilege to be chosen for the Five Star Real Estate Agent award. I want to give special thanks to my past and present clients for selecting me. I appreciate your rousing recognition of my service and market knowledge. I am very grateful.

- No. 1 agent Westport Main Coldwell Banker, 2015
- Awarded Realtor Emeritus status in 2016 for having 40 years in real estate



1508 Post Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824
Cell: 203-767-0920
Home office: 203-372-8176
rowehouses@aol.com
www.rowehouses.us

DORIS J. ROWE

Realtor Emeritus Status

Former President of the Fairfield Board of Realtors and Realtor of the Year



2017 WINNER

SHERRI A. STEENECK

Realtor

2017 marks my 28th year in real estate. Still paying attention to detail and helping people meet their needs to move forward in their life's journey!



FOUR-YEAR WINNER

Thank You for Your Confidence!



HIGGINS GROUP
REAL ESTATE

1499 Post Road | Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: 203-395-2737
sherri@steeneck.net | www.helpfindinghomes.com

I always want my clients to feel as though I am only working with them. They should always feel that they have my full attention. With a Bachelor of Science in education, I still love to teach first-time buyers and empty nesters. I consider myself a patient person that is willing to work with someone until they are comfortable with any transaction. I've taken these years of experience and learning to provide my services as the secretary of the Valley Association of Realtors and chairperson of the scholarship committee.



Shelton, CT 06484
Cell: 203-209-5069
Phone: 203-929-6775
pepe.realty@snet.net
peperealty.com

ELLEN ZERN

Owner/Broker

Licensed Realtor Since 1983 and Owner/Broker of Pepe Realty Inc Since 1998



2017 WINNER

WENDYE PARDUE

William Raveis Real Estate

3 Park St.
Norwalk, CT 06851
Cell: 203-247-7927
Office: 203-847-6633
wendye.pardue@raveis.com
www.raveis.com/teammember/
WendyePardue/3694



SIX-YEAR WINNER

Serving Mid Fairfield County

My intention is for transparent, heart centered communication, actions of the highest integrity and wisdom to assist you to realize your real estate dream.

Thank you for selecting me as a Five Star Real Estate Agent for 6 years! I always welcome and appreciate your referrals.

BILL JACQUEMIN

Broker/Owner

- Exceptional customer service
- Full service professional
- Expert negotiating skills
- Multimedia marketing



2017 WINNER

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billj@candlewoodrealty.com | www.Candlewoodrealty.com

- Client focused
- Uncompromising service
- Creative problem solving
- Innovative marketing
- Expert negotiation

I thank my clients for honoring me with this award.



564 Racebrook Rd.
Orange, CT 06477
Cell: 203-605-4480
Office: 203-795-2437
carolcangiano@gmail.com
carolcangianosells.com

CAROL P. CANGIANO

Realtor,
Certified Negotiation Expert

Building Lifetime Partnerships One Closing at a Time



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

Ferdinand is committed to representing and supporting his clients with all of their Real Estate needs, while maintaining fair treatment of others. His philosophy is simple, "Treat people the way you want to be treated."

"Good communication is the cornerstone for success and it's an honor to receive the Five Star Real Estate Agent award!"

— Ferdinand Giacinto

FERDINAND GIACINTO

Realtor

Integrity, Reliability and Results



2017 WINNER



61 Pennsylvania Ave.
Niantic, CT 06357
Direct: 860-912-0694
info@MovingRE.com
www.MovingRE.com

LINDA BOHNE

Realtor Associate



FIVE-YEAR WINNER

Keller Williams Realty

821 N Main St. Ext.
Wallingford, CT 06492
Phone: 203-715-5518
linda_bohne@yahoo.com
www.lindabohne.com

- Over 12 years' experience with a reputation for integrity, exceptional service and market knowledge
- Certified skilled negotiator
- 86 percent of Linda's clients are referrals or past clients

My sincere thanks to my clients for participating in this survey. This award means the world to me because it is not how many houses I sell that is important, but how happy my clients are!

DAWN BAKER

Realtor, Team Leader, GRI



2017 WINNER

William Raveis Real Estate

125 LaSalle Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107
Phone: 860-977-5470
dawn.baker@raveis.com
dawnbaker.raveis.com

Attention • Details • Results

I have a passion for the real estate business that goes far beyond houses. My mission is simple: listen to my clients' needs, provide outstanding client service, be responsive and be available. With this in mind, my experience, local market knowledge and insight will assist my clients in making the most informed decision for them.

Call me today. Experience the difference the *right* Realtor can make and leave no detail to chance. I look forward to working with you.

GINA McDONALD
Realtor, MRP, e-PRO®, CNAS



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER



Phone: 860-712-8171
gina.mcdonald@cbmoves.com
www.gina-mcdonald.com

Your Home Interests ...
My Priority!

DOROTHY KARSKA-PIECH
Realtor



FIVE-YEAR WINNER

Calcagni Real Estate

Phone: 860-690-3978
dorothy_karska-piech@calcagni.com
www.calcagni.com

It's All About You!

JANIE MEROLA
MBA, ABR®, CRS



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

RE/MAX Right Choice

Phone: 203-521-0791
Janie@CTRealEstateHelp.com
www.CTRealEstateHelp.com

RE/MAX Hall of Fame
CDPE, GREEN, GRI,
SFR®, SRES®
The Agent Friends Recommend

CHERI TRUDON
Realtor Associate



FOUR-YEAR WINNER



189 West Center St.
Manchester, CT 06040
Cell: 860-214-1054
ctrudoncon@gmail.com
www.cheritrudon.com

Thank You to All of My Clients
for Your Business and Referrals!

DON MILLER
Realtor, ABR®



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER



Phone: 860-861-5609
donmiller@realtypros.com
www.donmillerera.com

Licensed in Connecticut
and Rhode Island

JENNIFER MCCOY
Realtor, e-PRO®, SFR®, CHSA



THREE-YEAR WINNER



The Realtor McCoy
Phone: 203-231-6030
jennifer@mccoyrealttyct.com
McCoyRealtyCT.com
Providing White-Glove
Real Estate Service

ROSEANN CONTI
Realtor, ABR®, PSCS®



SIX-YEAR WINNER

**Coldwell Banker
Premiere Realtors**

Phone: 860-919-1560
roseann.conti@coldwellbanker.com

Relationships Are the
Cornerstone of My Business

JAY STREAMAN
Senior Sales Associate



SIX-YEAR WINNER

RE/MAX Right Choice

122 Greenwood Ave.
Bethel, CT 06801
Phone: 203-994-9421
Phone: 203-744-2400
jrstreaman@aol.com
40 Years of Experience
Lic. 0660940

ROBIN GEBRIAN
Realtor



SIX-YEAR WINNER

**William Raveis
Real Estate**

Phone: 860-985-7807
robin.gebrian@raveis.com
robingebrian.raveis.com

"Robin Gebrian Is the Best!
She Has Our Highest
Recommendations."
— Patty Benson

SOPHIA MESSORE
Realtor



TWO-YEAR WINNER



Milford, CT 06460
Cell: 203-676-8913
sophia.messori@cbmoves.com
www.sophiamessori.com

Your Realtor for Life
Serving Fairfield
and New Haven Counties

SHIRLEY BIRKMEYER
Realtor, GRI, CRS



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER



Office: 203-245-6700
Cell: 203-605-5608
sbirkmeyer@wpsir.com
shirleybirkmeyer.williamspitt.com

Knowledge, Integrity and
Superior Service

BEVERLY DEMADIS
Realtor



Total Dedication, Unsurpassed
Service, Proven Results



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

BARBARA PODLISNY
Realtor



SIX-YEAR WINNER

**William Raveis
Real Estate**

Phone: 203-206-5954
barbara.podlisy@raveis.com
BarbaraPodlisy.raveis.com

Thank You to My Clients
and Customers!

KATHY JESKI
Realtor

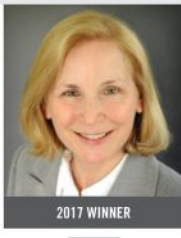


USAA and Navy Federal
Certified Agent



FIVE-YEAR WINNER

CLAUDIA BARTLETT
Realtor



2017 WINNER



Guilford, CT Office
Phone: 203-415-4195
cbartlett@pagetaft.com
www.claudiabartlett.com

Local Expertise —
Global Marketing

PEGGY GREGAN
Broker, ABR®, SRES®, Notary



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

**ERA Blanchard &
Rossetto, Inc.**

Phone: 860-836-0496
eragregan@gmail.com
www.PeggyDidItAgain.com

Committed to Customer
Satisfaction

ROSEANNE SCACCA
Realtor



Servicing Wethersfield,
Rocky Hill, Newington,
Cromwell and Glastonbury



FIVE-YEAR WINNER

ELIZABETH BOSCAINO
ABR®, GRI



FOUR-YEAR WINNER



Office: 203-762-8118, Ext. 321
Cell: 203-856-6238
eboscaino@halstead.com
www.halstead.com

Sincere Thanks and
Appreciation for This Honor!

TIM TIERNEY
Real Estate Broker



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

Klemm Real Estate

Office: 860-868-7313, Ext. 18
Cell: 860-671-0810
ttierney355@gmail.com

18 Years of Serving All of
Litchfield County

PATTY MCCARTHY
Sales Vice President, CRS, GRI, SRS



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

**The McCarthy Group
at William Raveis
Real Estate**

Office: 203-796-7709
Direct: 203-733-7006
Patty@PattyM.com
TheMcCarthyGroup.Raveis.com
Moving Homes in Every Market

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Five Star Professional surveyed Connecticut area residents who purchased a home priced at more than \$150,000 within a 12-month period (July 2015 to June 2016). The final list of 2017 Connecticut Five Star Real Estate Agents is a select group, representing less than 7 percent of real estate agents in the area. Evaluations were collected by mail, phone and online at www.fivestarpromotional.com/homesurvey.

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

All Areas

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Roni Agress - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
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Pamela Albini - Coldwell Banker
Roberta Allen - William Raveis Real Estate
Barbara Altieri - Coldwell Banker
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Betsy Anderson - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Roberta Anderson - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
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Anthony Annunziato - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Michael Antisdale - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
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Jed Backus - Backus Real Estate
Raymond Baldelli - Pearce Real Estate
Mary Jane Bannerman - Coldwell Banker
Susan Barnhouser - RE/MAX Home Team

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Lisa Bartlett - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Maryann Bennett - Joyce S. Drakeley Real Estate
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Marielle Bilodeau - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Laura Bitondo - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
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Ceynnon Bradley - Bottom Line Realty
Joyce Brown - Keller Williams Realty
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David Chamberlain - Weichert, Realtors
Leo Chomen - Randall, Realtors
Ellen Christian - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Matt Christie - Coldwell Banker
Sherri Ciotto - Calcagni Real Estate
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 Judie Ferraro - Calcagni Real Estate
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Page 7

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Michael Pavlin - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

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Margaret Shea - William Raveis Real Estate

Molly Shealy - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jolie Sherman - William Raveis Real Estate
Page 10

Vasco Silva - United Realty

Barbara Sivba - Coldwell Banker

Marie Skok - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Sally Smirnoff - Calcagni Real Estate

Eileen Smith - Pearce Real Estate

Elaine Smith - CENTURY 21

Karen Smith - SENTRY Real Estate

Kellee Smith - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Lynn Smith - Calcagni Real Estate

Robin Smith - RE/MAX Bell Park Realty

Paul Smyth - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Barbara Snyder - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Rob Sohmer - William Raveis Real Estate

Toni Soule - David L. Bain Real Estate & Investments

Rachel Sposato - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Richard St. Francis - William Raveis Real Estate

George Stankus - Showcase Realty

Jessica Starr - Starr Realty Group

Ed Stebbins - Stebbins Buyers & Sellers Realty

Justin Stebbins - Stebbins Buyers & Sellers Realty

Dale Stevens - RE/MAX Hometown

Mary Stevens - Mary Stevens Realty

Victoria Stillings - RE/MAX Right Choice

Jim Stobie - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Linda Sturm - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Monie Sullivan - William Raveis Real Estate

Andrea Swiedler - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Valerie Szondy - RE/MAX Heritager

Fredda Takacs - Higgins Group Real Estate

Gayle Erickson Talbot - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Camille Taylor - Taylor Realty Group

Norma Taylor - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Nancy Thill - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Steven Thomson - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Timothy Tierney - Klemm Real Estate **Page 9**

Leslie Timmons - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jeffrey Tisdale - RE/MAX Right Choice

Rosa Toledo - Classic Real Estate

Marje Tracy - William Raveis Real Estate

Lisa Trombly - SENTRY Real Estate

Teresa Troup - William Raveis Real Estate

Emily Turker - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Joanne Vaccarino - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Julie Vanderblue - Higgins Group/Vanderblue Team

Maureen Vanhise - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Terry Varrone - Keller Williams Realty

Margaret Very - Page Taft Real Living

Diane Vest - Coldwell Banker

Ken Viele - Coldwell Banker

Paul Vimini - Vimini Associates

Effie Vinal - Pine Knoll Real Estate

Dian Vince - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Cheryl Vitale - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Stephen Votto - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Melinda Walenciewicz - RE/MAX

Becky Walsh - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Tom Walsh - Weichert, Realtors

Nancy Weiner - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Wendy Weir - RE/MAX Right Choice

John Well - Manzi Real Estate

Mary Welsh - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Laura Wendt - William Raveis Real Estate

Wendy Westcott - Klemm Real Estate

Ilene Whitmarsh - RE/MAX Destination

Maryalice Widness - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Fran Wiehn - Randall, Realtors

Susan Wiley - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Joanne Williams - Hegarty & Company

Lorraine Winsor - Realty Seven

Mindy Wolkstein - William Raveis Real Estate

Robyn Wolman - William Raveis Real Estate

Sue Woods - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Karen Woolley - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Scott Wright - RE/MAX Right Choice

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Margaret Yonika - William Raveis Real Estate
Shanyelle Young - Gillette Real Estate
Kristina Zack - Keller Williams Realty

Chet Zadora - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Marybeth Zarifian - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices New England Properties

Ronni Zecher - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Ellen Zern - Pepe Realty Page 7

John Zubretsky, Jr. - Weichert, Realtors Page 4

Avon

Dan Babich - William Raveis Real Estate

Judy Bergman - Coldwell Banker Page 9

Christina Bill - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Carol Fine - Coldwell Banker

Henry Frey - RE/MAX Prime Realty

Charles Hartigan - William Raveis Real Estate

George Herman - Farmington Woods Realty

Valarie Holst - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Ellen Knowlton - William Raveis Real Estate

Laura Mensi - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Trish Murphy - Coldwell Banker

Steffen Reich - William Raveis Real Estate

Jennifer Roller - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Jeff Schleppy - Farmington Woods Realty

Ellen Seifts - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Laura Witt - William Raveis Real Estate

Berlin

Stacy King - RE/MAX Edge

Laurel Klepacki - Gustin Real Estate

**Mary Ellen Maloney - Sal Cal Real Estate
Connections Page 9**

Margaret Mullaney - William Raveis Real Estate

Chris Rose - ERA Sargis-Breen Real Estate

Cindy Wagner - ERA Sargis-Breen Real Estate

Bethany

Irma Nesson - Calcagni Real Estate Page 6

Bethel

Kim Gifford - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Terri Rotella - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Jay Streaman - RE/MAX Page 8

Brantford

Dennis Amendola - Weichert, Realtors Shoreline
Properties

Stephen Burke - Weichert, Realtors

Marybeth Canavan - Pearce Real Estate

Philip Carloni - RE/MAX

Dawn Carlson - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Janet Cavaliere - RE/MAX

Jo Gambardella - William Raveis Real Estate

Nancy Hainsworth - William Raveis Real Estate

Sheridan Peterson - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Gene Pica - RE/MAX

Carol Reilly - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Greg Robbins - William Raveis Real Estate

Victoria Welch - William Raveis Real Estate

Bridgeport

Cornelius Howard - Keller Williams

Gail Robinson - William Raveis Real Estate

Daniel Thomas - RE/MAX Right Choice

Oswaldo Torres - Las Americas Real Estate

Bristol

Scott Bayne - CENTURY 21 Bay-Mar Realty

Mark Capsalors - Select Realty Associates

Sabrina Janco - CENTURY 21 Bay-Mar Realty

Jim Krawiecki - William Raveis Real Estate

Brookfield

Dee Ceylan - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Linda Delucia - William Raveis Real Estate

Joanne Dicarolo - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Kellie Martone - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Linda McCaffrey - Coldwell Banker

Brooklyn

Mark Benard - Browning & Browning Real Estate

Burlington

Mark Dichiaro - Coldwell Banker

Carole Etzel - William Raveis Real Estate

Canton

David Damore - The D'Amore Agency

Linda Kessler - William Raveis Real Estate

Linda King - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Cheshire

Sally Bowman - Sally Bowman Real Estate

**Karen Brimberg - William Raveis Real Estate
Page 6**

Sharon Coughlin - William Raveis Real Estate

Dawn Dauria - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Joanne Hale - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Nancy Lydell - Calcagni Real Estate Page 5

Mary L. Malin - Calcagni Real Estate

Agnes Nawrocki - William Raveis Real Estate

Cheri Paulsen - William Raveis Real Estate

Melanie Ricci - Coldwell Banker

**Geralyn Rock - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage Page 11**

Marilyn Rock - Calcagni Real Estate

Cheryl Rosadino - Sally Bowman Real Estate

Marc Seigel - William Raveis Real Estate

Sandy Wagner - Calcagni Real Estate

Beverly Welch - Calcagni Real Estate

Chester

Lisa Tiezzi - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Clinton

Doris Fallon - William Raveis Real Estate

Colchester

Gita Burzycki - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Joyce Covone - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Linda Gurtel - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Sandra Lindstrom - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices New England Properties

Mary Parker - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Martin Piggot - Boyden Real Estate

Alan Williams - North Woods of Colchester

Columbia

Tina Bilanceri - Aspen Realty Group

Richard Nassiff - Keller Williams Realty

Coventry

Eric Lindlau - Lindlau Realty

Cheri Trudon - ERA Blanchard & Rosetto Page 8

Cromwell

Ellen Paklos - William Raveis Real Estate

Danbury

Debbie Balmaseda - William Pitt Sotheby's
International Realty

Sarah Becker - Best Realty

Lisa Brown - The Brokerage of New England

Kimberly Cicchiello - Coldwell Banker

Kelley Colino - William Raveis/The McCarthy Group

Cathy Golankiewicz - William Raveis Real Estate

Jonathan Hall - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Karl Horberg - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Laurie Russell Levitt - William Pitt Sotheby's
International Realty

Svetlana Mastrogiannis - William Raveis Real Estate

Betsy Pankulis - Best Realty

Carol Riley - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New
England Properties

Christopher Robinson - Coldwell Banker

Matthew Rose - Keller Williams Realty

Ruthanne Salvatore - Coldwell Banker

David Stuckey - Coldwell Banker

**Michael Vartolone - William Raveis Real Estate
Page 9**

Dave Vieira - Keller Williams Rebelo Realty

Darien

Amy Barsanti - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Karen Bonner - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Annelise Brown - Halstead Property

Nancy Dauk - Halstead Property

Robyn Decastro - Houlihan Lawrence

Dana Fead - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New
England Properties

Kelley Fuller - Houlihan Lawrence

Daria Kamford - Halstead Property

Bryan Morris - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Rebecca Munro - Halstead Property

Sue Okie - Halstead Property

Linda Terhune - Houlihan Lawrence

Thana Van Rooyen - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Stephan Von Jena - William Pitt Sotheby's
International Realty

Ruth Watson - William Raveis Real Estate

Dayville

Maria Marcotte - SellState Leading Edge

East Haddam

Jackie Nowell - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

East Hampton

Jamie Bell - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

East Lyme

Susan Bowes - RE/MAX on the Bay

Beth Brucker - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Roberta Felitto - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Amanda Gaudette - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Marilyn Jacobs - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Page 6**Janet McKenzie - William Raveis Real Estate Page 9**

Jason McKiernan - Heritage Properties
Beverly Nebelung - Heritage Properties
Wendy Roth - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Susan Turner - William Raveis Real Estate

East Windsor

Bill Arzt - CT Hometown Realty

Easton

Kelly Higgins - Coldwell Banker
Sheri Horowitz - The Riverside Realty Group
Gayle Worthington - William Raveis Real Estate

Enfield

Patricia Carpenter - RE/MAX Hometown
Cindy Collins - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty
Carol Hall - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty
Joanne Kazukynas - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty
Dee Mack - RE/MAX Hometown
Ken Nelson, Jr. - Coldwell Banker
Kathleen Sarno - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Essex

Jennifer Buchanan Josephson - Page Taft Real Living
Leslie Holland - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Margaret Mitchel - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Jane Macy Pfeffer - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Rick Weiner - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Fairfield

Mary Lou Bevvino - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Wendy Brandt Martinenas - William Raveis Real Estate
Barbara Carroll - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Heidi Cinder - William Raveis Real Estate
Rosemarie Cito - Coldwell Banker
Karen Cross - William Raveis Real Estate
Paulette Cuozzo - Denise Walsh & Partners William Raveis Realty
Nancy Dolan - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Patricia Eilenberg - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Kelly Finn - William Raveis Real Estate/AI Filippone Associates
John Hackett - William Raveis Real Estate

Alison Healy - Coldwell Banker

Lois Lipow - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Mark Markelz - William Raveis Real Estate

Jennifer McCoy - William Raveis Real Estate/AI Filippone Associates Page 8

Carol McCullough - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Cathy Mulrenan - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Monica Osorio - Higgins Group Real Estate

George Papageorge - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Bryce Perry - Sotheby's International Realty

Timothy Piedmont - Coldwell Banker

Sarah Pritchard - William Raveis Real Estate

Laura Sydney Pulton - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

John Shea - William Raveis Real Estate

Sherri Steeneck - Higgins Group/Vanderblue Team Page 7**Harriet Stone - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty Page 10**

Rita Tanis - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Nancy Thorne - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Cathy Van Tornhout - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Kim Vartuli - Higgins Group/Vanderblue Team

Carol Weir - William Raveis Real Estate

Farmington

Laurie Caserta - Keller Williams Realty

John Giblin - Keller Williams Realty

Cheryl Gregory - Realty Executives

Carole King - Keller Williams Realty

Rob Saelens - William Raveis Real Estate

George Santos - George J. Santos & Associates

Inez St. James - Keller Williams/Planner Realty

Paul Stepka - Vision Real Estate

Chloe White - Keller Williams Realty

Gales Ferry

Paula Turley - RE/MAX Realty Group

Glastonbury

Nancy Avery - William Raveis Real Estate

Jeff Bodeau - William Raveis Real Estate

Herb Carlon - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Carole Debella - William Raveis Real Estate

Mike Defosses - Keller Williams Realty

Jim Didato - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Linda Edelwich - William Raveis Real Estate

Yola Feery - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Harry Finer - William Raveis Real Estate Page 4

Margaret Foran - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Maria Hagan - William Raveis Real Estate Page 9

Scott Henry - Henry Real Estate Services

Susan Lahrmann - William Raveis Real Estate

Kate Loomis - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Britt Miglietta - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Tracy Molloy - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Margo Nielson - William Raveis Real Estate

Dawn Nostin - Executive Real Estate

Louis Preli - William Raveis Real Estate

Danielle Riendeau - Keller Williams Realty/Premier Partners Real Estate Page 5

Julia Rosner - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Christopher Sikand - William Raveis Real Estate

Nancy Stetson - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Kathy Urbanetti - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Keri Watkins - William Raveis Real Estate

Alicia Zawila Kulawski - Keller Williams Realty

Granby**Gina McDonald - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Page 8**

Stephen Simard - Keller Williams Realty

Greenwich

Suzanne Armstrong - Coldwell Banker

Richard Breglia - William Raveis Real Estate

Barbara Cioffari - Houlihan Lawrence

Danielle Claroni - New England Land Company

Deb Halsey - William Raveis Real Estate

Jane Howard Basham - Houlihan Lawrence

Randy Keleher - Halstead Property

Robin Kencel - Sotheby's International Realty

Paul Larson - Sotheby's International Realty

Patti Meyer - Halstead Property

Charles Nedder - Coldwell Banker

Patricia Nusbaum - Sotheby's International Realty

Joseph Porricelli - Coldwell Banker

Erford Porter - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Page 9

Maria Ruggeberg - William Raveis Real Estate

Carolyn Sarsen - David Ogilvy & Associates

Frann Ward - Houlihan Lawrence

Julianne Ward - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Joseph Williams III - Houlihan Lawrence

Griswold**Denise Robillard - Continental Realty Associates Page 10****Groton**

Bruce Drake - Randall, Realtors

Gay Gallagher - Gay Tyler Gallagher Real Estate

Lian Obrey - RE/MAX Home Team

Ludwig Pulaski - Realty World Signature Properties

Guilford

Nancy Bailey - William Raveis Real Estate

Paula Baraket - Christie's International Real Estate/Page Taft Real Living Page 3**Claudia Bartlett - Christie's International Real Estate/Page Taft Real Living Page 8**

Shane Bradley - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Debbie Cangiano - Pearce Real Estate

Fred Corey - RE/MAX

Heather Dacey - Christie's International Real Estate/Page Taft Real Living Page 3

Sandy Dillieto - Christie's International Real Estate/Page Taft Real Living

Barbara Goetsch - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Svetlana Goletz - Coldwell Banker Coast

Jennifer Gurnell - William Raveis Real Estate

John Izzo - William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Jacobson - William Raveis Real Estate

David Mayhew - Pearce Real Estate

Diane Popolizio - William Raveis Real Estate

Sue Popplewell - Pearce Real Estate

Sandra Reiners - William Raveis Real Estate

Deborah Rowe - William Raveis Real Estate

Blythe Smith - William Raveis Real Estate

Leigh Whiteman - William Raveis Real Estate

Hamden

Richard Ashman - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Amy Bergquist - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Kyle Bergquist - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Joe Cafasso - Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio

John Cuozzo - Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Mary Jo Deck - Press Cuozzo, Realtors

Christina Fitzgerald - Weichert, Realtors

Rebecca Koladis - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Ellen Nathanson - Press Cuozzo, Realtors

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Hartford

Kathy Jeski - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Page 8

Harwington

Colleen Platt - The Washington Agency

Hebron

Debbie Temple - RE/MAX Edge

Michael Thompson - Countryside Realty

Kent

David Bain - David L. Bain Real Estate & Investments

Killingworth

Shelly Cumpstone - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Page 9

Nancy Dansereau - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Page 5

Laurie McCann - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Lakeville

Leslie Bell - Elyse Harney Real Estate

Mimi Harson - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Ledyard

Carol Christiansen - RE/MAX Realty Group

Nancy Warburton - RE/MAX Realty Group

Litchfield

David Luzi - E.J. Murphy Realty

Kathy Matyas - Sotheby's International Realty

Ellen Waterhouse - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Amity Wolfe - William Raveis Real Estate

Lyme

Allyson Cotton - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Madison

Shirley Birkmeyer - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty Page 8

Judy Dannemann - William Raveis Real Estate

Catherine Finlay - William Raveis Real Estate

Alison Gould - Gould & Gulick

Robin Keegan - William Raveis Real Estate

Tracey Kersteen - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Catharina Lynch - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Laurie Mazzeo - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Margaret Muir - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Sheila Tinn Murphy - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Edward Pellegrino - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Allison Gentile Pollack - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Lisa Rollins - Christie's International Real Estate/ Page Taft Real Living

Joann Stirling - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Eric Thal - William Raveis Real Estate

Lorey Walz - Coldwell Banker

Bette Zollshan - Page Taft Real Living

Manchester

Clare Miller Burti - Anne Miller Real Estate

Donna Connolly - Anne Miller Real Estate

Shelby Muraski - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Micheline Wry - Anne Miller Real Estate

Mansfield

Jeanne Crum - Home Selling Team

Jack Fulton - Home Selling Team

Brian McCarthy - Home Selling Team

Wendy McDonald - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Peter Millman - Weichert, Realtors Four Corners Real Estate

Marlborough

Corinne Machowski - William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Nilsen - William Raveis Real Estate

Meriden

Tracey Slocum Daddio - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Lisa Golebiewski - Realty Associates

David MacLennan - Calcagni Real Estate

John Maier - Maier Real Estate Page 10

Judith Mik - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Pamela Savejs - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Daniela Volo - Calcagni Real Estate

Middlebury

Donna Bannon - Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Bannon & Hebert

Lori Geraci - Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Bannon & Hebert

Mary Hebert - Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Bannon & Hebert

Beth Santos - Showcase Realty

Middletown

Thomas Abbate - William Raveis Real Estate

Bruce Bayles - William Raveis Real Estate

Jody Bonaiuto - William Raveis Real Estate

Phyllis Bysiewicz - Ameritage Group

Marsha Couture - William Raveis Real Estate

Patricia Flynn - Sterling, Realtors

Michelle MacNeil - William Raveis Real Estate

Michelle Mazzotta - Keller Williams Realty

Sally McMahon - William Raveis Real Estate

Barbara Puorro - Puorro Realty Group Page 6

Danae Stoane - Sterling, Realtors

Jacqueline Williams - Sterling, Realtors

Milford

Kathy Anderson - Coldwell Banker

John Coppola - William Raveis Real Estate

Heather Crabtree - Coldwell Banker

Stephanie Ellison - RE/MAX Right Choice

Karen Kline - The Real Estate Gallery of CT

Carolene Mahnken - William Raveis Real Estate

Len Nicoletti - Coldwell Banker

Richard Persico - RE/MAX Right Choice

Luke Porto - Coldwell Banker

Carole Sansone - William Raveis Real Estate

Donna Tartagni - Coldwell Banker

Jill Taylor - RE/MAX Right Choice

Linda Wilson - Coldwell Banker

Barbara Zink - Coldwell Banker

Monroe

Pamela Buzi - William Raveis Real Estate

Marie Spanbauer - William Raveis Real Estate

Mystic

Cheryl Auerbach - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Michael Collins - Coldwell Banker

Stella Elbaum - William Raveis Real Estate

Josie Flynn Navin - Coldwell Banker

Ralph Gudin - William Raveis Real Estate

Joanne Kelley - Coldwell Banker

Charity Macpherson - Realty 3

Joe Malerba - RE/MAX Coast & Country

Marianne Malerba - RE/MAX Coast & Country

Bridget Morrissey - RE/MAX Coast & Country

Michele Peters - Randall, Realtors

Jeremy St. Louis - Stebbins Buyers & Sellers Realty

John Vincent - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Naugatuck

Michael Kelly - Mike Kelly Real Estate

Lori Rotella - Coldwell Banker

New Canaan

Candace Blackwood - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Robbie Bloisio - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Marsha Charles - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Carolyn Clark - Houlihan Lawrence

John Engel - Halstead's Realty Guild

Barbara Gronseth - Halstead Property

Lisa Hawley - Halstead Property

Janis Hennessy - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Carol Hollyday - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Sherri Kielland - Houlihan Lawrence

Rita Kirby - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Carrie Luciano - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Maria Miller - William Raveis Real Estate

Lauren Napoli - Halstead Property

Lisa O'Rourke - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Emily Restifo - Houlihan Lawrence

Christine Saxe - William Raveis Real Estate

Karen Sneirson - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Dawn Sterner - Halstead Property

Kathryn Tanner - Houlihan Lawrence

Bill Taylor - Houlihan Lawrence

Rachel Walsh - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

New Fairfield

Renee Collins - Collins Morrow Real Estate

Cheryl Finley - Cheryl Finley Properties

Trish McFadden - Christie's International Real Estate/Neumann Real Estate Page 9

Angelina Valentini - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

New Hartford

Scott Holmes - Coldwell Banker

New Haven

Katherine Bennett - Betsy Grauer Realty

Mary Jane Burt - Pearce Real Estate

Joe Giordano - RE/MAX

Jeffrey Granoff - GRL and Realtors

Betsy Grauer - Betsy Grauer Realty

John Hedden - Weichert, Realtors Regional Properties

Eddie Higgins - Betsy Grauer Realty

Anne Marseille - Betsy Grauer Realty

Judith Normandin - Pearce Real Estate

Jim Porto - Coldwell Banker

Debbie Schlegel - Coldwell Banker Page 10

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Cheryl Szczarba - Seabury Hill Realtors
Linda Teixeira Ohr - Pearce Real Estate

New London

Dyann Degaetano - Asset Real Estate

New Milford

Joe Chemero - Coldwell Banker
Suzanne Gallup - William Raveis Real Estate
Raymond Getman - William Raveis Real Estate
Bill Jacquemin - Candlewood Realty Page 7
Gary Passineau - William Raveis Real Estate
Todd Sargent - Coldwell Banker
Deborah Snopkowski - Coldwell Banker

Newington

Joanne Breen - ERA Page 10
Tom Fudacz - Modern Real Estate
Clifford Stamm II - CENTURY 21 Stamm Eddy Realty
John Valdez - Executive Real Estate

Newtown

Sandy Anderson - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Eileen Brooks - William Raveis Real Estate
Beth Caldwell - William Raveis Real Estate
Christine Fairchild - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Lisa Gallagher - William Raveis Real Estate
Nancy Marcucilli - William Raveis Real Estate
Elizabeth Newnham - Real Living Scalzo Group
Jane Phillips - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Lorrie Silber - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Kathy Suhoza - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Diane Tyrrell - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Ellen Vincent - William Raveis Real Estate
Richelle Ward - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Robert Ward - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Connie Widmann - William Raveis Real Estate

Niantic

Edward Bowes - RE/MAX on the Bay
Scott Pellerin - Coldwell Banker

North Branford

Dawn Siedlarz Aponte - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

North Haven

Thomas Cristofano - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Marc Fasano - William Raveis Real Estate
Patricia Moreggi - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Judith Starno - Pearce Real Estate

Norwalk

Ellen Balazs - EJB Realty
Jeffrey Byington - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Michael Church - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Elizabeth Kamar - William Raveis Real Estate
Michael Manzano - Halstead Property
Mark Namm - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Anthony Parenti - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Steve Scatamacchia - William Raveis Real Estate Page 10
Laura Frisch - Heritage Properties

Old Greenwich

Roger Norum - Higgins Group Real Estate

Old Lyme

Nancy Birge - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Page 9
James Childs - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Karen Conniff - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Beth Cote - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Linda Marsh - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Nancy Mesham - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Jodi Strycharz - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Laurie Walker - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Page 9

Old Saybrook

Marc Delise - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Lisa Genovali - RE/MAX Valley Shore/Genovali Realty
Susan Malton - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Bill Sage - Coldwell Banker Page 6
Cherie Suhie - JM Realty
Mariette Woolson - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Greg Young - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Orange

Maryann White - Coldwell Banker

Oxford

Patricia Blanko - William Raveis Real Estate
Joseph Cannizzaro - RE/MAX Right Choice
Karen Griffin - Coldwell Banker
Susan Kopec - Carey & Guarrera Real Estate
Linda Ragozzine - Coldwell Banker
Heather Weber - Coldwell Banker

Plainville

Lisa Rinaldini - Coldwell Banker Premiere Realtors
Joan Vallee - Coldwell Banker Premiere Realtors

Plymouth

Michael Ganem - Michael Ganem & Associates

Pomfret

Mary Collins - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Portland

Angela Aresco - William Raveis Real Estate

Prospect

David Jones - Dave Jones Realty Page 10
Anne Krings - Pavlik Real Estate Page 11
Deborah Pavlik Ridolfi - Pavlik Real Estate Page 11
Joseph Waters - Parkview Properties Page 6

Putnam

Joann Hall - RE/MAX

Redding

Ginny Beasley - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Kim Cuniberti - Coldwell Banker
Lisa Pompeo - Coldwell Banker

Ridgefield

Laura Freed Ancona - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
David Brand - Keller Williams Realty
Marilyn Caravetta - William Raveis Real Estate
Terry Cigno - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Terry Conlon - Coldwell Banker
Pamela Conn - Weichert, Realtors
Annmarie Del Franco - Blackstone Properties of CT
Deborah Durkee - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Sharon Greene - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Jefferson Guthrie - Coldwell Banker
Sally Hahn - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Caren Harrington - Keller Williams Realty

Joann Kish - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Leslie Krichko - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Marge Lanzara - Coldwell Banker
Maureen Maher - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Jo Mineo - Neumann Real Estate
Karla Murtaugh - Neumann Real Estate
Bob Neumann - Neumann Real Estate
Susanne Prial - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Jane Scarbrough - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Kathryn Schmitt - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Lonnie Shapiro - Coldwell Banker
Kristi Vaughan - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Kathy Vescera - Keller Williams Realty
Judy Walker - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Bart Wickstrum - Coldwell Banker

Rocky Hill

Cheryl Bergeron - Keller Williams Realty
Dawn Satagaj - William Raveis Real Estate
Makaela Stevens - CT Realty Consultants

Rowayton

Mary Ellen Barreille - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Tammy Langalis - William Raveis Real Estate

Roxbury

Margaret Garguilo - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Maria Taylor - Glenn G. Taylor Family

Salisbury

Elvia Gignoux - Best & Cavallaro Real Estate
Elyse Harney Morris - Elyse Harney Real Estate
Juliet Moore - Elyse Harney Real Estate
Mary Taylor - Best & Cavallaro Real Estate

Seymour

Rosalie Averill - Rupwani Associates Real Estate Page 6
Cindy Baxter - Keller Williams Realty
Nickie O'Toole - Nickie O'Toole Realty

Shelton

Karen Berwick - Real Estate Two
Jodi Dawley - Real Estate Two
Stephen Guarrera - Carey & Guarrera Real Estate
Paul Jensen - Coldwell Banker

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Anita Pavone - Real Estate Two
 Carlos Perez - RE/MAX Right Choice
 Tracy Perry - Real Estate Two
 Toni Tice - William Raveis Real Estate

Sherman

Irit Granger - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Shoreline

Paula Hahn - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Simsbury

Kris Barnett - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Beverly Demadis - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
 Page 8

Kristin Dubois - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Penny Gitberg - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Charlie Kaylor - Re/Max Communities

Carole Margolis - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Bobbi Mathues - Realty World Hometown

Patti Maulucci - Keller Williams Realty

Linda Oseychik - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Margo Ross - William Raveis Real Estate

South Windsor

Brian Burke - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Cate Evans - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Bob Knurek - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

James Knurek - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Tatyana Makarov - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Bill Mamak - RE/MAX Edge

Mark Massaro - Coldwell Banker

Karen O'Connor - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Julie Tetreault - Wallace & Tetreault Realty

Southbury

Kary Apanovitch - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

John Arigo - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Maryanne Betso - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Justin Bette - Joseph Bette, Realtors

Joann Bredenberg - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lynn Bruneau - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
 Jeff Colt - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
 Greg Defazio - William Raveis Real Estate
 Dennis Desantis - Heritage Village Real Estate
 Nancy Langrock - William Raveis Real Estate

Donna Matula - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
 Page 10

Ronald Nettleton - William Raveis Real Estate

Amy Pelletier - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Marian Van Egas - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Southington

Paula Burton - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Margie Chupron - Realty 3

Roseann Conti - Coldwell Banker Premiere Realtors
 Page 8

Carrie Korenkiewicz - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Kathy Magliochetti - Calcagni Real Estate

Heidi Matusik - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lynn Patrick - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Brian Perrella - Perrella Realty

John Perriello - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Sandra Wiczorek - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jeff Wight - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty

Stafford

Rob Arute - Arute Realty

Stamford

Judy Amster - William Raveis Real Estate

Todd Auslander - Keller Williams Prestige Properties

Keith Balentine - Higgins Group Real Estate

Joelle Bentley - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Joan Breslow - William Raveis Real Estate

Andrew Davis - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Diane Eliades - Halstead Property

Olwyn Fagan - Keller Williams Prestige Properties

Mike Feldman - William Raveis Real Estate

Miriam Flatow - William Raveis Real Estate

Kenneth Fried - William Raveis Real Estate

Pauline Galuris - Weichert, Realtors

Elayne Jassey - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Jeannie Kasindorf - Keller Williams Prestige Properties

Priti Kothari - William Raveis Real Estate

Lorraine Leonard - Keller Williams Prestige Properties

Marilynn Loglisci - Higgins Group Real Estate

Yulka Markevich - Iron Gates Realty
 Shelly Olivadoti - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
 Karen Paolino - Higgins Group Real Estate
 Elaine Parruccini - Keller Williams Prestige Properties
 John Pellegrino - William Raveis Real Estate
 Len Schwartz - Keller Williams Prestige Properties
 Jim Troy - Independent, Realtors
 Barbara Webski - Weichert, Realtors
 Valerie Willey - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
 Edward Yuchowitz - Weichert, Realtors

Stonington

Mariann Blatch - Hunter Moore & Stearns

Lucia Johnstone - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

John Ragsdale - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Samantha Storey - RE/MAX Coast & Country

Thomas Switz - Switz Real Estate Associates

Storrs

Deborah Chabot - RE/MAX

Steven Ferrigno - Ferrigno-Storrs, Realtors

Tammy Lucier - Weichert, Realtors Four Corners Real Estate

Stratford

Mary Amenda - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Ken Caserta - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Mary Ellen Casey - William Raveis Real Estate

Kathleen Connery - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Denise Curcio - William Raveis Real Estate

Holly Fichtel - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Deborah Loban - William Raveis Real Estate

Stacy Pfannkuch - William Raveis Real Estate

Bonnie Reynolds - William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Tara Zegarski Stirk - William Raveis Real Estate

Suffield

Chris Colli - Chestnut Oak Associates

Melanie McGann - Dowd Realty Group

Stephanie Salerno - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Robin Zatony - Dowd Realty Group

Thomaston

James Kaniewski - Town & Country Real Estate

Tolland

Lisa Gordon - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Ryan Ladd - RE/MAX Destination
 Judith Schachner - Keller Williams Realty
 Joe Sciarra - D.W. Fish Real Estate

Torrington

Nancy Schroeder Perez - The Washington Agency

Trumbull

Joan Anderson - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Stephen Bennett - Coldwell Banker

Thomas Braunagel - The Braunagel Team

Jeffrey Craw - William Raveis Real Estate

Steve Flanagan - William Raveis Real Estate

Joan Hainsworth - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Stephen Hodson - Hodson Realty

Trish Kennedy - Higgins Group Real Estate

Steven Lage - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

John McBride - RE/MAX

Donna Mizak - William Raveis Real Estate

Anthony Ogonovszky - William Raveis Real Estate

Christine Penney - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Daniel Ranocchia - Higgins Group Real Estate

Diane Tantimonico - RE/MAX Right Choice

Terri Vreeland - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Michael Wright - RE/MAX Right Choice

Uncasville

Melissa Giangrosso - Realty World Signature Properties

Vernon

Elaine Fenster - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Jennifer Holt - RE/MAX Destination

Earl Melendy - RE/MAX Destination

Lisa Rogstad - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Kathleen Sitek - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Susanne Vacek - D.W. Fish Real Estate

Wallingford

Margaret Bennett - Margaret Bennett Realty

Linda Bohne - Keller Williams Realty
 Page 7

Mary Edeen - Calcagni Real Estate

Kevin Green - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Pat Harriman - Harriman Real Estate

Dawn Hoydilla - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Allison Hughes - William Raveis Real Estate

All award winners are sorted by city and listed alphabetically by last name.

Pamela Sawicki Beaudoin - Realty Associates

Barbara Sibley - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Robin Soboleski - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Stephen Thompson - Dan Combs Real Estate

Lucille Trzcinski - Mainline New England Real Estate

Cheryl Ulstad - Calcagni Real Estate

Susan Walton - Pearce Real Estate

Claire Whalen - Coldwell Banker

Louise Zemina - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Washington

Kathryn Clair - Sotheby's International Realty

April Crumrine - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Waterford

Geoff Hausmann - RE/MAX

Marilyn Lusher - RE/MAX Home Team

Michelle L. Mayo - Heritage Properties

Bud Picazio - Partner Network Real Estate

Watertown

Dorothy Dorso - Weichert, Realtors/Briotti Group

Theresa Gorman - Weichert, Realtors

West Hartford

Mollie Abend - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Marsha Komarow Arpin - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices New England Properties

Dawn Baker - William Raveis Real Estate Page 7

Lisa Barall Matt - RE/MAX

Jessica Beganski - William Raveis Real Estate

Bonnie Berliner - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Melinda Bonin - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Margaret Brennan - William Raveis Real Estate

Eileen Brewer - Akin - William Raveis Real Estate

Susan Brine - William Raveis Real Estate

Tony Buccheri - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Daniel Burgio - William Raveis Real Estate

Marla Byrnes - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Lisa Campo - William Raveis Real Estate

Kelly Conway - William Raveis Real Estate

Ina Cooper - William Raveis Real Estate

Kara Flanagan - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

**Robin Gebrian - William Raveis Real Estate
Page 8**

Jonathan Gineo - Nutmeg Properties

**Susan Hatch - William Raveis Real Estate
Page 10**

Carl Lantz - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Claire Lombard - William Raveis Real Estate

Mark Merin - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lori Meyerson - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Louis Mira - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Laurie Murray - Keller Williams Realty

Robert O'Meara - Keller Williams Realty

Lisa Ogren - Keller Williams Realty

**Margaret O'Keefe - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors
Page 10**

Billie Reese - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Suzanne Schumann - William Raveis Real Estate

Alison Shipley - William Raveis Real Estate

Annie Sullivan - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Janet Tanner - RE/MAX Premier, Realtors

Holly Walsh - Keller Williams Realty

Suzanne Walsh - William Raveis Real Estate

Michael Zelman - Keller Williams Realty

West Haven

Ana Pena - William Raveis Real Estate

Mary Radziszewski - Weichert, Realtors

Liping Wang - Property World USA

Westbrook

Robin Linares - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Weston

Vickie Kelley - Camelot Real Estate Page 3

Leslie Riback - Coldwell Banker

Ninfa Varella - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Westport

Edie Anderson - William Raveis Real Estate

Cathy Blount - The Riverside Realty Group

Mary Kate Klemish Boehm - Halstead Property

Annette Coplit - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Gabrielle Di Bianco - Higgins Group Real Estate

Julie Falzone - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Doris Ghitelman - William Raveis Real Estate

Emily Gordon - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

**Susan Hawley - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage Page 10**

Sandie Kinsey - William Raveis Real Estate

David Kinyon - William Raveis Real Estate

Marilyn Klemish - Halstead Property

Anne Landis - William Raveis Real Estate

Barrie Lee - William Raveis Real Estate

Maryann Ross Levanti - Christie's International Real
Estate/Higgins Group Real Estate

Joann Lindwall - Weichert, Realtors

Joelle Malec - William Raveis Real Estate

Michael Maynard - New Neighbors Realty

Janet Nalezynski - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Patricia Prenderville - William Pitt Sotheby's
International Realty

Cindy Raney - The Riverside Realty Group

Beth Saunders - Executive Real Estate/Executive
Premier Properties

Elaine Schanzenbach - William Raveis Real Estate

Darcy Sledge - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Barbara Sweeney - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Judy Szablak - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Dianne Weinstock - The Riverside Realty Group

Wethersfield

Sharon Carducci - William Raveis Real Estate

Antonio Colasacco - Weichert, Realtors

Annie Dillon - William Raveis Real Estate

Allen Grover - Weichert, Realtors/The Zubretsky
Group

Wayne Horgan - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Dick Peplau - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Lizz Romano - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

**Roseanne Scacca - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices New England Properties
Page 8**

Wilton

**Theresa Blinder - William Raveis Real Estate
Page 2**

Elizabeth Boscaino - Halstead Property Page 8

Deborah Estes - Realty Seven Page 10

Joanne Fisher - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Joel Krawitz - William Pitt Sotheby's International
Realty

Carol McMorris - Higgins Group Real Estate

Anne Oliver - Halstead Property

**Susan Resch - William Raveis Real Estate
Page 2**

Dori Seamans - Realty Seven

Jeff Turner - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Cindy Wein - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Windham

Clarence Russ - Home Selling Team

Windsor

Lynne Gillette - Gillette Real Estate

Michael O'Brien - William Raveis/First Town Real
Estate

John Waters - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Windsor Locks

Daniel Merrigan - Merrigan & LeFebvre Realty

John Seaha - Griffin Realty

Wolcott

Gene Fercodini - Fercodini Properties

Linda Fercodini - Fercodini Properties

Maria Vilar - Weichert, Realtors

Woodbridge

Carol Agin - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

**Pat Cardozo - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage Page 6**

Dalia Coleman - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Harriet Cooper - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Judy Cooper - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Arlene Levine - Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage

Christine Lovejoy - Coldwell Banker

Woodbury

Sindy Butkus - Klemm Real Estate

Woodstock

John Downs - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

Stephanie Gosselin - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices

Monique Maldonado - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices New England Properties

Diane White - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
New England Properties

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Left to right: Standing: Five-year winner Richard Breed, NMLS 704369; Six-year winner Michael Lockavitch, NMLS 115594; Seven-year winner Marc Nathan, NMLS 90295; Seated: Two-year winner Tracey Jackson-Fiske, NMLS 113214; Three-year winner Suzanne Greene, NMLS 90210

(Not pictured: Two-year winner Jennifer Torrens, NMLS 113835; Two-year winner James Johnston, NMLS 149795; 2017 winner Jim Ryder, NMLS 105595)

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Assistant Vice President



FIVE-YEAR WINNER

Peter Ganci
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FIVE-YEAR WINNER

Marnie Joy
Mortgage Loan Officer



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER

Deborah K. Miller
Mortgage Loan Officer



THREE-YEAR WINNER

Matthew L. Nawrocki
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FOUR-YEAR WINNER

Tracey L. Perry
Mortgage Loan Officer



FIVE-YEAR WINNER

Jerry Polzella
Assistant Vice President



SIX-YEAR WINNER

Faith Wilson
Mortgage Loan Officer



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- Peter Ganci — Cell: 860-471-2373, pganci@liberty-bank.com, www.liberty-bank.com/peter
- Marnie Joy — Cell: 860-729-3267, mjoy@liberty-bank.com, www.liberty-bank.com/marnie
- Deborah K. Miller — Cell: 860-882-8062, dmiller@liberty-bank.com, www.liberty-bank.com/dmiller
- Matthew L. Nawrocki — Office: 203-630-6960, Voice mail: 860-260-1860, mnawrocki@liberty-bank.com, www.liberty-bank.com/mattn
- Tracey L. Perry — Cell: 860-759-9848, Office: 860-345-2670, tperry@liberty-bank.com, www.liberty-bank.com/tracey
- Jerry Polzella — Voice mail: 860-588-8788, Cell: 860-759-9853, jpolzella@liberty-bank.com, www.liberty-bank.com/jerry
- Faith Wilson — Cell: 860-759-5658, fwilson@liberty-bank.com, www.liberty-bank.com/faith

Gail C. Bartoli, NMLS 494878; Peter Ganci, NMLS 643580; Marnie Joy, NMLS 102967; Deborah K. Miller, NMLS 568814; Matthew L. Nawrocki, NMLS 494881; Tracey L. Perry, NMLS 568815; Jerry Polzella, NMLS 494882; Faith Wilson, NMLS 568817.



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Left to right: Five-year winner Kristopher Cedillo, Mortgage Banker;
Six-year winner Terry T. Terzakis, Mortgage Banker



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Phone: 860-257-8200

- Terry T. Terzakis:
tterzakis@atlantichomeloans.com, NMLS 110369
- Kristopher Cedillo:
kcedillo@atlantichomeloans.com, NMLS 94955

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Left to right: Five-year winner Vincent Biscoglio; Three-year winner Denise Russo

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Vincent, NMLS 6954; Denise, NMLS 644402.

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THREE-YEAR WINNER

Five Star Professional surveyed more than 3,600 Connecticut homeowners. The final list of 2017 Connecticut Five Star Mortgage Professionals is a select group, representing less than 4 percent of mortgage professionals in the area. Evaluations were collected by mail, phone and online at www.fivestarprofessional.com/homesurvey.

All award winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

James Adams - Envoy Mortgage
Paul Addamo - William Raveis Mortgage
Jay Ardolino - Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation
Tish Assante - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Russell Baboff - The Simsbury Bank & Trust Company
Cynthia Bahl - Cornerstone Mortgage Page 23
Jennifer Barone - Residential Mortgage Services
Mark Barrere - Guaranteed Rate
Jane Barry - Peoples United Bank
Chris Bartlett - Emm Financial
Gail Bartoli - Liberty Bank Page 21
Joe Bartolomeo - Newtown Savings Bank
Scott Beckwith - East Shore Mortgage Services
Kevin Belmonte - Simsbury Bank
Laurie Berger - William Raveis Mortgage
Sue Bernier - United Bank
David Bigley, Sr. - Main Street Mortgage
Vin Biscoglio - Envoy Mortgage Page 22
Brian Boyaji - Peoples United Bank
Robert Bradley - Primary Residential Mortgage
Richard Breed - Village Mortgage Page 20
Jim Bremm - Mortgage Master
Linda Brule - Putnam Bank
Michael Buckley - Webster Bank
Carl Bulgini - Fenwick Mortgage
David Bunk - Franklin American Mortgage Company
Spring Burke - Salisbury Bank & Trust Company
Marco Cabral - Ion Bank
Kevin Carse - PHH Home Loans
Joseph Caruso - PrimeLending
Joseph Castelli - Guilford Mortgage Service
Kristopher Cedillo - Atlantic Home Loans Page 22

Michael Christoforo - PHH Home Loans
Deirdre Church - Norcom Mortgage
John Ciolino - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Jarret Coleman - United Bank
Colleen Comeau - William Raveis Mortgage
Brian Coughlin - Welcome Home Mortgage
Christopher Crowne - Right Trac Financial Group
Norma Cruz-Mathis - Santander Bank
Kimberly Cyr - First Niagara Bank
Scott Dana - PHH Home Loans
Michael Daversa - Atlantic Residential Mortgage
Ron Delaney - Stonegate Mortgage
Norman Delaura - Freedom Mortgage
Lori Demma - Connecticut Home Mortgage
Michael Derosa - William Raveis Mortgage
Michael Diot - Guaranty Federal
Jay Doherty - Total Mortgage
Bryan Donahue - RMS Residential Mortgage Services
Diane Dornfried - Ion Bank
Elaine Dreher - Peoples United Bank
Patty Dyer - Union Savings Bank
Maureen Elkins - PHH Home Loans
Iliad Estrada - Luxury Mortgage
Victor Falco III - Newtown Savings Bank
Linda Fay - Mb Financial Bank
Betty Feigenbaum - Residential Mortgage Services
Robert Filippone - Webster Bank
Sylvie Fillion - PHH Home Loans
James Forte - Total Mortgage
Edward Fournier - Connecticut Home Mortgage
Christopher Francis - Mortgage Master
Richard Frederick - Connecticut Home Mortgage
Peter French - Simsbury Bank
Eric Gadarowski - Connecticut Home Mortgage

Peter Ganci - Liberty Bank Page 21
Leslie Gattinella - Homebridge Financial Services
Ann Gauthier - Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Steven Geryk - State Finance Company
Amy Gildea - Peoples United Bank
Beth Glynn - Chelsea Groton Bank
Manny Gomes - Guaranteed Rate
Renee Gonzalez - Retirement Funding Solutions
Christopher Goodrich - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Robert Grace - Webster Bank
Sherry Greene - Putnam Bank
Suzanne Greene - Village Mortgage Page 20
Lori Grillo - Farmington Bank
John Grosso - William Raveis Mortgage
Michele Grull - Savings Bank
Kerry Gulick - Union Savings Bank
Stephen Habetz - Peoples Bank
Kirk Hagert - Residential Mortgage Services
Greg Hall - Embrace Home Loans
Barbara Hallwood - PHH Home Loans
Christian Harrison - First World Mortgage
Terry Hastings - Total Mortgage
Paul Hirschauer - Guaranteed Rate
John Hodgkins - Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation
Bob Hoffmann - Welcome Home Mortgage
Mike House - First World Mortgage
Wendy Hunt - Homestead Funding
Mark Illingsworth - United Bank
Tracey Jackson-Fiske - Village Mortgage Page 20
Raymond Jalbert - Homebridge Financial Services
Jeffrey Jensen - The Federal Savings Bank
David Johnrow - Farmington Bank
Christopher Johnson - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Penn Johnson - Stamford Mortgage Company
James Johnston - Village Mortgage Page 20
Brian Jones - Connecticut Home Mortgage
Marlene Jones - Northpoint Mortgage
Marnie Joy - Liberty Bank Page 21
Henry Karas - First World Mortgage
Brian Kaskel - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Cathy Kehoe - Primary Residential Mortgage
Ron Klein - Guaranteed Rate
Gerry Klender - Berkshire Bank
James Kochis - Primary Residential Mortgage
Greg Kochman - Avistar Mortgage
Frank Kolb - Raveis
Ann Kramer - United Bank
Bill Krasnor - Strategy Mortgage
Robert Krasnor - Strategy Mortgage
Daniel L'Altrelia - L'Altrelia Lending Group
Heath Ladona - Guaranteed Rate
Cynthia Lang - Loandepot Mortgage Master
Michael Lockavitch - Village Mortgage Page 20
Rebecca Lollie - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
John Luddy - Norcom Mortgage
Kevin Luddy - Province Mortgage Associates
Thomas Lutz - Newtown Savings Bank
Kevin Mace - Harbour Mortgage Group
Allison Manuel - Bank Of America
Gary Margelot - Webster Bank
Janice Marsh - Connecticut Home Mortgage
Paul Martin - Allied Funding Group
Timothy Martin - PHH Home Loans
Charles Masse - Norcom Mortgage
Anthony Mastrocro - American Eagle Federal Credit Union Page 23
John Mazza - Atlantic Residential Mortgage

All award winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

Suzanne Mazzarella - RMS Residential Mortgage Services

Donald McCormack - Strategy Mortgage

James McDowell - Mortgage Master

Stephen McFarlin - Total Mortgage

Gerard McGuinness - PrimeLending

Sharon McHugh - Savings Institute Bank & Trust

Jeffrey McKinney - Residential Mortgage Services

Kevin McMahon - Fairfield County Bank

Patrick McRedmond - Fairfield County Bank

Paula Mercier - Welcome Home Mortgage Page 22

Aimee Merritt - Connecticut Home Mortgage

Kelly Meuser - Simsbury Bank

Michael Meyer - Northeast Financial

Ruth Michalski - J.G. Wentworth Home Lending

Deborah Miller - Liberty Bank Page 21

Brad Moore - First World Mortgage

Lisa Moriello - Mortgage Master

Maria Mozzicato - Norcom Mortgage

Karen Mulreed - Westport Mortgage

John Naclerio - Bank Of America

Marc Nathan - Village Mortgage Page 20

Matt Nawrocki - Liberty Bank Page 21

Ralph Negri - Mortgage Master

Robert Neighbours - First World Mortgage

Lisa Nicholas - PrimeLending

Brian O'Neil - Peoples United Bank

David O'Neil - First Niagara Bank

Lynne Oliveri - RMS Residential Mortgage Services

Susan Otfinoski - Carrington Mortgage Services

Denise Panza - Pryma Lending Group

Skart Paul - Primary Residential Mortgage

Edward Pawlik - Northpoint Mortgage

Zack Pearson - Ward Kilduff Mortgage

Brian Pelletier - United Bank

Tracey Perry - Liberty Bank Page 21

Anna Podkowiak - Farmington Bank

Jerry Polzella - Liberty Bank Page 21

Christine Preston - William Raveis Mortgage

Clementina Rafael - Peoples United Bank

Joel Ralph - Washington Trust Mortgage Company

Drew Raney - Northeast Financial

Greg Reichman - Peoples United Bank

Nima Rezvan - Primary Residential Mortgage

Julie Ribeiro - PNC Mortgage

Aileen Richards - United Bank

Jorge Rivera - Mortgage Master

Patricia Rogers-Longo - Chelsea Groton Bank

Karen Roman - Dime Bank

Dan Rosenfeld - Leader Bank

Michael Rousseau - New England Residential Finance Page 23

Denise Russo - Envoy Mortgage Page 22

Jim Ryder - Homestead Funding Page 20

Jude Satalino - The McCue Mortgage Company

Dorothy Satti - Gateway Mortgage Services

John Schlobohm - Homestead Funding

Lynn Scuderi - Stonegate Mortgage

Ken Sehak - PHH Home Loans

Harry Sessa - United Bank

Tim Sickinger - FM Home Loans

Mark Sidoti - Mortgage Assistance Company

Jon Sigler - Freedom Mortgage

Brian Skelly - Capital One

George Souto - The McCue Mortgage Company

Dave Stambone - Total Mortgage

Kathleen Standish - Castle & Cooke Mortgage

Lee Stater - Sikorsky Credit Union Page 23

Scott Stoll - First World Mortgage

Andrew Stone - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Linda Streett - First World Mortgage

James Stufano - Homestead Funding

David Swain - Webster Bank

Marion Szarzynski - Homebridge Financial Services

Andrew Taylor - Mortgage Master

Brian Taylor - New England Home Mortgage

Craig Taylor - Guaranteed Rate

Natale Terranova, Jr. - Residential Mortgage Services

Terry Terzakis - Atlantic Home Loans Page 22

Mary Tigno - Norcom Mortgage

Elizabeth Titus - Savings Institute Bank & Trust

Jay Tolisano - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Jennifer Torrens - Village Mortgage Page 20

Mark Townsend - Anniemac Home Mortgage

Trish Townsend - The Milford Bank Page 23

Keith Turner - McCue Mortgage

Richard Turner - Chelsea Groton Bank

Lynne Valente - Norcom Mortgage

Jeffrey Vangele - Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Patricia Vautour - Mortgage Master

Peter Ventriglia - Landmark Financial Group

Steven Veronesi - Washington Trust Mortgage Company

Justin Vicino - Guaranteed Rate

Fernando Vidal - First World Mortgage

Feliks Viner - First World Mortgage

Anita Visconti - PNC Mortgage

Dana Voelzke - Mortgage Master

Gregory Ward - Ward Kilduff Mortgage

Skip Wasserman - Atlantic Residential Mortgage

Kathy Weiser - Washington Trust Mortgage Company

Donna Werkhoven - The McCue Mortgage Company

Jonathan Whitney - Mortgage Master

Beth Williams - Contour Mortgage

Faith Wilson - Liberty Bank Page 21

Alex Wisz - American Eagle Federal Credit Union

Rose Yardito - Webster Bank

Stanley Yee - Citizens Bank

Bruce Yonika - United Bank

Dave Zamary - First County Bank

- 27 years with Montagno Insurance Agency
- Independent agent representing nine insurance companies
- Fostering lifelong client relationships
- Conscientious and courteous
- Personal and professional

Montagno Insurance Agency Inc.

344 Robbins St.
Waterbury, CT 06708
Direct: 203-574-4524
Office: 203-574-5211, Ext. 102
kim@montagnoinc.com
www.montagnoinc.com

KIMBERLY FITZGERALD

API™, CIP, CLP, CPCU®, DAE

Personal Care and Attention



SIX-YEAR WINNER

It is an honor to be a recipient of this award for the sixth time. I am dedicated to offering my clients superior insurance products that meet their needs and to adding value to the experience through personal care and attention. Building a comprehensive insurance portfolio for a client is a rewarding experience.

It's an honor to be a recipient of this award. During my 20 years at V.F. McNeil, I've committed myself to serving the insurance needs of my clients in the best and most professional manner. I'm thankful for my nomination, your loyalty and the referrals you continuously send to me. Helping you protect what matters most is truly rewarding to me.

V.F. McNeil Insurance

500 E Main St.
Branford, CT 06405
Office: 203-481-2684
Cell: 203-982-0013
cmontuori@vfmcneil.com
www.vfmcneil.com

CARMINE MONTUORI

Vice President, CIC

Simplifying Insurance in Connecticut



2017 WINNER

“Keep up with market conditions, so you are always knowledgeable.”

— Five Star award winner

MICHAEL J. GAROFALO
Agent, Owner, Lic. Conn. and N.Y.



Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone: 203-869-8220
michaelg@allstate.com
agents.allstate.com/
michaelgarofalo-greenwich-ct.html

**Do You Know the Two
Cost for Insurance?**



THREE-YEAR WINNER

JENNIFER CROWLEY
Sales Account Executive



SIX-YEAR WINNER

CASTLE EDGE
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Direct: 855-809-3191
Fax: 781-684-7314

Jennifer.Crowley@CastleEdge.com
Facebook.com/JenniferCrowleyCE

**Committed to Providing the
Protection You Need and the
Peace of Mind You Deserve**

THOMAS LALLY
Sr. Account Agent/Financial Specialist



SEVEN-YEAR WINNER



Phone: 860-745-7111
Fax: 860-745-2666
thomaselally@allstate.com
www.allstateagencies.com/085242

You're in Good Hands

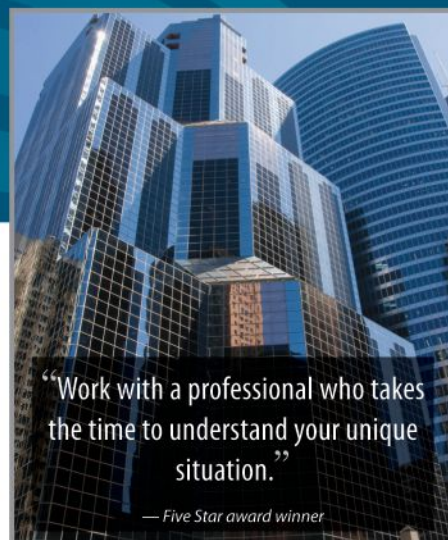
TAMMY ENQUIST-CANFIELD
Sales Representative



SIX-YEAR WINNER



Phone: 203-695-3893
eFax: 603-559-9477
Tammy.Canfield@LibertyMutual.com
facebook.com/TammyCanfieldLM
www.linkedin.com/in/tammy-enquist-canfield-49b9a214
**Thank You to My Clients
for This Honor**



**"Work with a professional who takes
the time to understand your unique
situation."**

— Five Star award winner

Five Star Professional surveyed more than 3,600 Connecticut homeowners. The final list of 2017 Connecticut Five Star Home/Auto Insurance Professionals is a select group, representing less than 5 percent of insurance professionals in the area. Evaluations were collected by mail, phone and online at www.fivestarpromotional.com/homesurvey.

All award winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

Judy Alexander - Bearingstar Insurance
Eleni Andrejewski - Liberty Mutual
Marc Archambault - Archambault Insurance Associates
Elizabeth Avery - Bouvier Insurance
Thomas Ayres - The Russell Agency
Myron Baldwin III - John M. Glover Agency
David Bauer - Bearingstar Insurance
Allison Baxter-Bannerman - Newberry Insurance Agency
Joseph Beaudreault - Gerardi Insurance Services
Joann Belfiore - Nationwide Insurance
John Bogden - Bogden Insurance Agency
Andrew Borner - Olde Liberty Insurance
Thomas Bott - The Bott Agency
Katherine Bouton - John M. Glover Agency
Todd Bovino - John M. Glover Agency
Timothy Brown - Brown Thayer Shedd Inc.
Matthew Bub - State Farm
Caitlin Buettel - Clark Insurance
William Burnett - Nationwide SIG Insurance
Kristin Burns - Burns Insurance & Financial
Susan Burt - MBI Company Group
Rosemary Butler - State Farm
David Canapari - Marcus Insurance
Carlo Carozzi, Jr. - Liberty Mutual
Sean Carroll - Merit Insurance
Lisa Casalini - Dimatteo Group
Jennifer Casalone - Bearingstar Insurance
Paul Catalano - State Farm
Crystal Cathcart - Marketstace
Robert Chepurna - CDR Insurance
Richard Coda - Amity Insurance & Financial Services
Susan Colletti - Housatonic Valley Insurance Agency
Yale Cooke - Bearingstar Insurance
Evan Cooper - Bearingstar Insurance
Walter Crosby - Sumner & Sumner
**Jennifer Crowley - Castle Edge Insurance Agency
Page 25**
Suzette Cyr - Sumner & Sumner
Paul D'Addabbo - Insurance Associates
Joseph D'Errico - Allstate Insurance

Corinne Danko - AAA
Angel De Los Santos - Liberty Mutual
Mark Degenaro - The Degenaro Agency
Victoria DiMatteo - Charter Oak Agency
Norma Dinsdale - Archambault Insurance Associates
Jeffrey Dolin - The Dolin Insurance Center
Debi Donarumo-Lombardi - A.J. Gambardella Associates
David Drescher - Ion Insurance
Michael Drzata - Wentworth Deangelis & Kaufman
Diane Eger - Orange Insurance Center
Tammy Enquist-Canfield - Liberty Mutual Page 25
Kyle Evaristo - Robert J Evaristo & Associates
Jason Falcone - Falcone Insurance Group
**Kimberly Fitzgerald - Montagno Insurance Agency
Page 24**
John Fortlivo - John M. Glover Agency
Chris Fraleigh - Fraleigh & Gray
**Michael Garofalo - Allstate Insurance
Page 25**
Rachel Gaudet - United Insurance Group
Daniel Goldfarb - Anderson-Meyer Insurance
David Gould - The Gould Insurance Group
Tim Greer - State Farm
Derek Gromko - Gromko Insurance Agency
Richard Guandalini - Mobeck Guandalini Insurance
Kristin Guglielmo - Penny-Hanley & Howley Company
Kathryn Gusy - Brooks Todd & Mcneil
Timothy Haas - Haas Insurance
Kevin Hanlon - Independent Insurance Center
Douglas Harrigan - Harrigan Insurance
Douglas Haywood - Allstate Insurance
Ronald Houct - Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company
Lucia Jimenez - Nationwide Insurance
Jody Jordan - State Farm
Debra Kane - Sava Insurance
Michael Keating - Keating Insurance Agency
Scott Keneston - Farm Family Insurance
Briea Korzep - Korzep Insurance Agency
Paul Korzep - Korzep Insurance Agency
Marykay Kosheluk - The Assurance Center

John Kovacs, Jr. - John J Kovacs Insurance Agency
James Lacock - Peter M. Bakker Agency
Thomas Lally - Allstate Insurance Page 25
Lauren LaTorre-Osterling - Latorre Osterling Insurance Agency
Thomas Leonard - All Connecticut Insurance Brokers
Jane Lettick - Connecticut Insurance Services
Suzanne Lishnoff - Maritime Program Group
Michael LoStocco - Lostocco Insurance Services
Linda Lucier - Archambault Insurance Associates
Amy Lukaszewski - Tracy-Driscoll & Co
Teresa Mannello - Bouvier Insurance
Augustus Marchetti - Marchetti Brown & Bishop
Tom Marchetti - Marchetti Brown & Bishop
Loren Marozas - William Raveis Insurance
Eric Matunas - Standard Insurance Agency
Traci McComiskey - Gerhardt Insurance Agency
Robert Milford - Sundel & Milford
Adam Miller - Adam Miller Agency
Kevin Millman - Allstate Insurance
Janet Mislick - Southeast Agencies
Lysa Molnar - Archambault Insurance Associates
Carmine Montuori - V.F. McNeil Insurance Page 24
David Mosher - Horace Mann
Sandra Mosley - Liberty Mutual
Sue Moyer - Bouvier Insurance
Mary Murocca - Petruzelo Insurance Agency
Robert Oman - The Stone Agency
Clifford Opalacz - Opalacz Agency
Christine Osak - Royko-Charamut Insurance
Jeanette Pagliuco - William Raveis Insurance
John Palmer - Palmer & Associates Insurance
Joseph Palmer - Palmer & Associates Insurance
Mandy Panik - Smith Insurance
George Pastorok III - Southbury Insurance Agency
Previn Patel - Insurance Services of Monroe
Kathleen Peterson - Smith Insurance
Maria Pietrosante-O'hara - Allstate Insurance
Joe Plante - State Farm
Christine Potts - Allstate Insurance

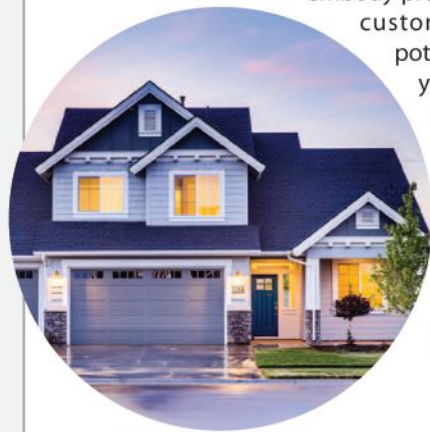
Edward Rapacki III - Rapacki & Rapacki
Kevin Ray - Deming Insurance Agency
Robert Reade - William Raveis Insurance
Eugene Reznitsky - Trager Insurance Group
Ann Riley - Jason Halpert & Associates LLC
Steven Rose - Rose Insurance Agency
Robert Rosenberg - Insurance Problem Solvers
Jim Rottkamp - State Farm
Linda Roussey - Wilcox & Reynolds Insurance
Timothy Russell - The Russell Agency
Stephen Sadlak - Sadlak Insurance
Brian J. Schmitt - CCM INSURANCE GROUP
Michael Schumann - Newberry Insurance Agency
Gregory Seekins - Newberry Insurance Agency
Michael Shea - Rice Davis Daley & Krenz
Thomas Sheehan - The Thomas G Sheehan Agency
Carol Snow - Everett J O'Connor Insurance Agency
Arthur Somma - American Financial Solutions
Arthur Spears III - Art Spears & Associates Allstate
John Staunton - Wentworth Deangelis & Kaufman
Pamela Stenger - Bearingstar Insurance
Steven Strauss - Harris Adelberg & Strauss Insurance Agency
Jay Streaman - John Streaman Insurance
Richard Sudock - MBI Company Group
Heldi Summa - William Raveis Insurance
Hoyt Sweeney - The Pawson Group
Joshua Trager - Trager Insurance Group
Ashley Tranquist - Tranquist Insurance Group
Barbara Trianovich - Starkweather & Shepley
Jonathan Turk - William Pitt Insurance Services
Marleen Turner - Bearingstar Insurance
Robert Vaccaro - Liberty Mutual
Bob Vaughan - Bob Vaughan Agency
Rich Waag - The Frame Agency
Tatia Winecoff - State Farm
Hallie Wong - Peter M. Bakker Agency
Matt Wright - Nationwide Insurance
Wendy Zdunczyk - AAA

Announcing Connecticut 2017 Rising Stars

Five Star Professional partnered with *Connecticut* magazine to identify up-and-coming real estate agents in the state of Connecticut that provide exceptional service to clients. The Five Star research team contacted hundreds of consumers and established real estate professionals to identify this year's award recipients.

Recent homebuyers and local consumers submitted evaluations by phone, mail and online. They were asked to rate their service professional on criteria such as overall satisfaction and whether they would recommend the provider to a friend. In addition to consumer feedback, established industry professionals nominated up-and-coming agents that embody professional excellence, exhibit superior customer service skills and show great potential to excel in their profession. This year's list of up-and-coming real estate agents appears below, with expanded profiles on subsequent pages (see each award winner's listing for more details).

Professionals who satisfied each of the following objective criteria were named a 2017 Connecticut Rising Star Real Estate Agent.



Determination of Award Winners

Evaluation Criteria

1. Qualifying peer nomination or consumer evaluation.

Eligibility Criteria

2. Actively licensed as a real estate salesperson.
3. Actively employed as a licensed real estate salesperson for five years or less.
4. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review.
5. Meets minimum 12-month production criteria (based on number of transactions and sales volume)

Research Methodology

- The 2017 Rising Star Real Estate Agents do not pay a fee to be included in the research or the final list.
- Each agent is screened against state governing bodies to verify that licenses are current and no disciplinary actions are pending.
- The inclusion of a real estate agent on the final list should not be construed as an endorsement by Five Star Professional or *Connecticut* magazine.
- Rising Star Real Estate Agents are up-and-coming members of their profession. Candidates must have five years' experience or less as a licensed real estate agent to be eligible for the award.

For more information on Five Star Professional and the research/selection methodology, go to www.fivestarpromotional.com.

All award winners are listed alphabetically by last name.

All Areas

Cheryl Arcidiacono - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Allyn Armistead - Calcagni Real Estate
Jonathan Audette - Duprey Real Estate
Mark Avery - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Stacey Berkman - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Rose Ciardiello - William Raveis
Mary Dobruck - William Raveis Real Estate
Jorge Gil - Edgehill, Realtors/Pearce Real Estate
Laura Henriques - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
Bill Jones - William Raveis
Erica Kevrekian - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties
David Landau - RE/MAX Right Choice
Gina Lavery - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Courtney Martin - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Tim Morse - Home Selling Team
Hycinth Natarajan - Weichert, Realtors Page 27
Robert Perriello - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty
Nassim Saad - RE/MAX on the Bay

Heike Severine - William Raveis Real Estate/Carolyn Augur & Company
Kelly Shaffer - Dave Jones Realty
Daniel Sousa - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Jennifer Thomas - William Raveis Page 27
Thomas Vanacore - CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty
Ryan Vigue - Home Selling Team
Susan Volenc - William Raveis
Adam Wagner - The Carozza Realty Group
Janessa Woods - CENTURY 21 Bay-Mar Realty
John Zubretsky III - Weichert, Realtors/The Zubretsky Group Page 4
Avon
Jan Pecherski - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Branford
Marta Elmasry - Coldwell Banker
Cheshire
Melissa Mesite - Calcagni Real Estate
Danbury
Denise Sladek - Keller Williams Realty
Enfield
Lauren Marszalek - Keller Williams Realty

Farmington

Sharon Major - William Raveis

Glastonbury

Chad Glucksman - Keller Williams Realty/Premier Partners Real Estate Page 5

Greenwich

Joann O'Hara - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Guilford

Robert Curry - Pearce Real Estate

Middlebury

Christina Zainc - Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Bannion & Hebert

Milford

Kelly Hill - Coldwell Banker

New Haven

Katherine Esposito - Press Cuzzo, Realtors

Prospect

Antonio Marrero - Dave Jones Realty

Shelton

Drew Taraian - Real Estate Two

Southbury

Jason Arcuri - Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Bannion & Hebert

Southington

Elizabeth Urbanski - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Wallingford

Lindsey Barbuto - Calcagni Real Estate

West Hartford

Amy Babich - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties

Paula Ostap - William Raveis Page 27

Weston

Karen Hagen - Coldwell Banker Westport

Westport

Carol Cutler - Higgins Group Real Estate
Lynne Nolan - William Raveis Real Estate
Richard Higgins - The Higgins Group

HY NATARAJAN

Realtor

**2017 WINNER****Weichert, Realtors**

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Stamford, CT 06903
Cell: 203-391-8044
whyhf03@gmail.com
www.realtorhyacinth.com

**Dedicated and Committed
Realtor with a Warm,
Enthusiastic Style**

- Knowledgeable, detailed and passionate
- Understanding and caring
- Builds long term client relationships

Coming from a corporate background into real estate three years ago, I am honored to receive this award. It is a pleasure to meet and work with wonderful people and to help them achieve one of their biggest dreams — that of owning a home! I listen to my clients needs and gently help them make the right decision. My experience in almost all aspects of real estate of buying and selling or investing provides my client the complete solutions in real estate. My ability to provide extraordinary client focus is what sets me apart.

**Honest. Educated.
Dependable.**

- Top team agent
- Certified Homeownership Professional
- Ranked in top 1% nationally with customer reviews (Zillow/Trulia)
- Helping buyers and sellers in Greater Hartford

William Raveis

Ellyn Marshall & Associates
125 LaSalle Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107
Phone: 860-748-1845
@whrealtor
paula.ostop@raveis.com

**PAULA FAHY
OSTOP**

Realtor

**2017 WINNER**

Paula is an educated and results driven professional. She is involved in every aspect of the industry working in tandem with buyers, sellers, banks, attorneys and insurance brokers. Her patience and industry knowledge enable her to successfully negotiate transactions.

"Paula proved to go above and beyond even my high expectations and standards: she was responsive and easy to work with. Paula clearly knows the market and provides terrific advice."
— T. C., West Hartford

JENNIFER THOMAS

Real Estate Professional

**2017 WINNER**
**WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE**

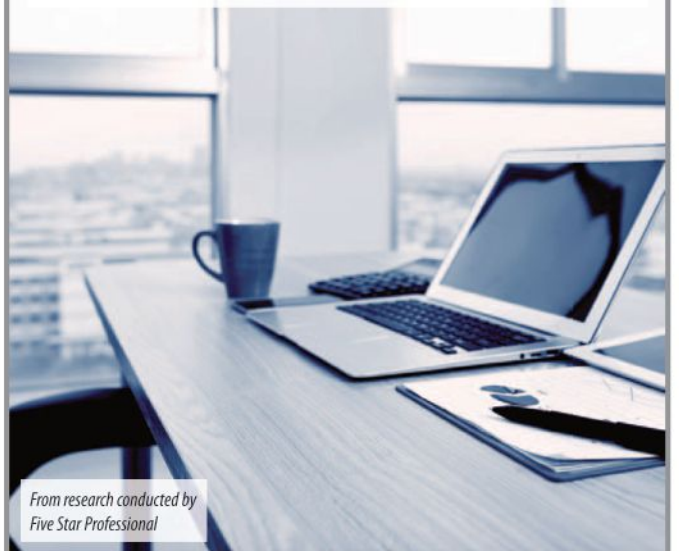
189 Sound Beach Ave.
Old Greenwich, CT 06870
Phone: 917-312-3350
jennifer.thomas@raveis.com
www.jenniferthomas.raveis.com

Jennifer's reputation for honesty, discretion and hard work sets her apart from other real estate agents. Critical thinking, the ability to multi-task, and be well organized for the clients' needs are qualities that lead to successful and seamless transactions for her clients. Jennifer provides excellent customer service to facilitate her client's transaction. This is achieved through her good listening skills, immediate response time to client's questions and needs, and knowledge of the local market to educate her client's on the buying and selling process.

"Jennifer was extremely professional, knowledgeable, patient, has a great sense of humor and has a great understanding of the market and various towns in Conn. When we started the process of finding a home, we knew exactly where we wanted to live however Jennifer listened to our criteria and introduced us to a town she thought was better for us. Well, the town has in fact been a great fit for us and our children." — Rivera family

Top five questions that real estate agents want you to answer:

1. What are your goals?
2. What price range are you comfortable with?
3. Are you pre-qualified?
4. What is your timeframe?
5. If we find the right property, are you prepared to purchase it today?



From research conducted by
Five Star Professional

| dining guide | litchfield county

The Restaurant at Winvian Farm • French • EP Chef Chris Eddy constantly changes the menu, using simple and seasonal ingredients accented with unusual and fresh findings. • 155 Alain White Road, Morris, 860-567-9600 winvian.com. Closed Mon.-Tues. L D, \$\$\$, WA

RSVP • French • EP A "special concept" French restaurant, RSVP offers carefully selected five-course prix fixe meal. Alcohol is BYOB only, and dinner is by reservation only. • 7 Railroad St., West Cornwall, 860-672-7787 rsvp-restaurant.com. Open Fri.-Sun. D, \$\$\$

The White Hart • Farm to Table • EP High-quality cuisine made from an A-list of farm sources served in a rustic, recently remodeled historic country inn dating to 1805. • 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, 860-435-0030 whitehartinn.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$, WA

The White Horse Country Pub • American • EP RC Serves American pub favorites like burgers, ribs and seafood bake, along with some English ones — shepherd's pie, fish-and-chips and bangers and mash. Outdoor dining in warmer months provides a delightful experience. • 258 New Milford Tpke., Washington, 860-868-1496 whitehorse-countrypub.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$\$, WA

Winvian • American • EP Simplicity and indulgence converge with fresh and spontaneous farm-to-table menus and an eclectic wine selection. Reservations are required. • 155 Alain White Road, Morris, 860-567-9600 winvian.com. Closed Tues. L (Sat.-Sun.), D (Wed.-Mon.), \$\$\$

| Middlesex County

Angelico's Lake House • American Overlooking Lake Pocotopaug, Angelico's features great outside dining and a tiki hut. Try the spinach risotto, rack prime rib, stuffed salmon or lobster ravioli with sautéed shrimp. • 81 North Main St., East Hampton, 860-267-1276 angelicoslakehouse.com. Open daily. L D LS SB, \$\$, E, WA

Baci Grill • Modern Italian Try house specialties like grilled mango-and-chipotle pork loin, chicken sausage and broccoli rabe pasta, Guinness skirt steak and scallop risotto at this casual, trendy restaurant. • 134 Berlin Road, Cromwell, 860-613-2224 bacigrill.com. Open daily. L D LS, \$\$, E, WA

The Blue Oar • Seafood • EP Open seasonally, with open-air dining and fresh-catch entrees. BYOB; cash only. • 16 Snyder Road, Haddam, 860-345-2994 blueoarct.wix.com. Open daily, Mother's Day weekend-Labor Day; Thurs.-Sun., Labor Day-end of Sept. L D, \$\$\$

Chester's Barbecue • Barbecue Mouthwatering, slow-cooked barbecue is the name of the game here. Choose from BBQ favorites like smoked ribs, chicken, brisket and burnt ends. • 10 West Main St., Clinton, 860-669-6868 chestersbbq.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$

Cuckoo's Nest • Mexican • RC Housed in a 200-year-old barn, Cuckoo's Nest has been serving nachos, fajitas, Cajun shrimp and scallops for more than 35 years. • 1712 Post Road, Old Saybrook, 860-399-9060 cuckoosnest.biz. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$, E, WA

Dattilo Fine Italian at Water's Edge Resort and Spa • Italian Enjoy spectacular ocean views and Italian specialties like Veal Romano, Wild Mushroom Arancini and Lobster Ravioli. And join us for our award-winning Sunday Brunch! • 1525 Boston Post Road., Westbrook, 860-399-5901 watersedgesortandspa.com. Open daily. B L D SB, \$\$\$, E

Eli Cannon's Tap Room • Beer Bar • EP The Connecticut innovator of the modern beer bar, Eli Cannon's has been pouring sought-after brews since long before it was a trendy business model. Food favorites here include the famous nachos, chicken wings (there's 20 custom sauces), the classic cannon burger and the blackened chicken wrap. • 695 Main St., Middletown, 860-347-3547 eliccannons.com. Closed Mon. L (Fri.-Sun.) D LS, \$\$\$, WA

The Griswold Inn • American The beloved 1776 "Gris" features classic New England cuisine in the dining room, small plates and 50 wines by the glass in the wine bar, and a lively taproom. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 36 Main St., Essex, 860-767-1776 griswoldinn.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$\$, E, WA

Iguanas Ranas Taqueria • Mexican • EP Affordable, fresh and authentic Mexican food served fresh and with home-style taste. • 484 Main St., Middletown, 860-346-8630 iguanasranastaqueria.com. Closed Sun. L D, \$

La Foresta • Italian • RC This big and beautiful ristorante serves garden-fresh, ingredient-driven fine Northern Italian cuisine. It also has a VIP wine cellar and one of the state's best wine selections. • 163 Route 81, Killingworth, 860-663-1155 laforestarestaurant.com. Open daily. D, \$\$, WA

Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale • Seafood • EP This Connecticut institution serves all manner of fresh seafood, from hot lobster rolls to baked stuffed shrimp to fried whole-belly clams. • 86 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, 860-669-0767 liffishtale.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

Liv's Oyster Bar • Seafood • EP Liv's is a stylish, small neighborhood restaurant housed in an old movie theater. Stonington sea scallops, wild salmon, organic chicken and heirloom vegetables top the menu. • 166 Main St., Old Saybrook, 860-395-5577 livsoysterbar.com. Closed Tues. D, \$\$, WA

Luce • American Have your aged steaks grilled over wood chips—there are 20 types to choose from. Offers seafood, an extensive wine list and a great bar atmosphere. • 98 Washington St., Middletown, 860-344-0222 lucect.com. Open daily. L D LS, \$\$, WA

Luigi's • Italian Enjoy classic Italian favorites like seafood cannelloni, chicken leonardo, veal parmigiana, whole clams, prime rib and other dishes. • 1295 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, 860-388-9190 luigis-restaurant.com. Closed Mon. (except in July and Aug.). D, \$\$\$, WA

Mondo • Pizza • EP This casual, family-owned restaurant specializes in brick-oven, New York-style thin crust pizza. There is also a beer and wine bar. • 10 Main St., Middletown, 860-343-3300 mondomiddletown.com. Open daily L D, \$\$\$, WA

Puerto Vallarta • Mexican Authentic, traditional Mexican cuisine is prepared fresh daily — sometimes even at your table — mixing time-honored recipes with innovative culinary techniques. • 200 Main Metro Square, Middletown, 860-852-0080 puertovallartausa.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$

Rustica • Italian • EP The food is made fresh daily, from the pasta to the salads to the homemade desserts. Also offering a varied wine collection. • 189 Middlesex Turnpike, Chester, 860-526-9021 rusticact.com. Closed Mon. D, \$\$\$

| New Haven County

Adriana's • Italian • EP Old-fashioned Italian fare, served up in generous portions. • 771 Grand Ave., New Haven, 203-865-6474 adrianasnewhaven.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.), D, LS (Fri.-Sat.), \$\$\$, WA

Baja's • Mexican • EP Casual, authentic Mexican food. • 63 Boston Post Road, Orange, 203-799-2252. Open daily. L D, \$\$\$, WA

Bella's Café • American • EP Stylish and cozy cafe serves breakfast and lunch all day during the week, or brunch on weekends. • 896 Whalley Ave., New Haven, 203-387-7107 bellascafe.com. Close Mon. B L SB, \$

Bin 100 • Mediterranean Feast on delicious Mediterranean cuisine elegantly served in a spacious dining room. • 100 Lansdale Ave., Milford, 203-882-1400 bin100restaurant.com. Open daily. D SB, \$\$, E, WA

Ceviche • Latin Fusion • EP Several styles of ceviche are offered here. In addition, the place features a variety of sizzling Latin dishes, cocktails and 30 types of tapas. Try the Granada Mojito, which features pomegranate flavors. • 530 Middlebury Road, Middlebury, 203-527-7634 cevichelatinkitchen.com. Closed Mon. L (Wed.-Thurs.) D LS, \$\$\$, WA

Chip's Family Restaurant • American • EP Famous for its perfect pancakes, Chip's also has a creative lunch and dinner menu, and guests are welcome to BYOB. • 321 Boston Post Road, Orange, 203-795-5065 chipsrestaurants.com. Open daily. B L D, \$

Consiglio's Restaurant • Classic Italian Family-owned and -run for more than 70 years, Consiglio's is known for classic home-style favorites like homemade cavatelli and braciolo, eggplant rollatini and lasagna. • 165 Wooster St., New Haven, 203-865-4489 consiglios.com. Open daily. L (Tues.-Fri., Sun.) D, \$\$\$

Dino's Seafood • Seafood This family-run favorite of local North Haven diners for more than four decades prides itself on serving high-quality seafood with the taste of love and joy in every order. Customer favorites include strip clams, fritters, lobster rolls, and top-split hot dogs accompanied with a local craft beer. • 540 Washington Ave., North Haven, 203-239-5548 dinosseafood.com. Closed Mon. L D, \$, WA

Elm City Social • American • EP Features creative and upscale pub-friendly fare in a visually impressive setting. There is also an assortment of excellent cocktails offered. • 286 College St., New Haven, 475-441-7436 elmcitysocial.com. Open daily. L D, LS, \$\$\$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • Pizza While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 157 Wooster St., New Haven, 203-865-5762 pepespizzeria.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$, WA

Geronimo Tequila Bar & Southwest Grill • Southwestern Fusion • EP Mix of traditional Native American, Mexican, Spanish and Anglo-American fare, with bold flavors and authentic ingredients. • 271 Crown St., New Haven, 203-777-7700 geronimobarandgrill.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, \$\$\$

Heirloom • Modern Continental • EP Chef Carey Savona serves dishes like crab cakes with fennel and vermouth butter and herbed gnocchi with rapini and tomatoes. • The Study at Yale, 1157 Chapel St., New Haven, 203-503-3919 heirloomnewhaven.com. Open daily. B L (Mon.-Sat.) D SB, \$\$, WA

Home • American Whether in the main "dining room" or the "living room" lounge, Home offers up locally sourced food and a wide selection of regional craft brews to make its guests feel comfortable and comforted. • 1114 Main St., Branford, 203-483-5896 homerestaurantct.com. Closed Mon. L D, \$\$\$, E

L'Orcio • Contemporary Italian • EP This upscale contemporary restaurant features an outdoor patio and a menu of house-made pastas, grilled whole fish and steaks with seasonal cuisine. • 806 State St., New Haven, 203-777-6670 lorcio.com. Closed Mon. L (Fri.) D, \$\$\$

La Tavola Ristorante • Classic Italian Enjoy a twist on classic Italian cuisine with prosciutto-wrapped figs, pumpkin ravioli and pepper-encrusted Ai tuna. • 702 Highland Ave., Waterbury, 203-755-2211 latavolaristorante.com. L D, \$\$\$, WA

Mamoun's • Middle Eastern • EP Authentic Middle Eastern cuisine, made from scratch using fresh, natural ingredients, fine imported spices and signature recipes, served in a traditional environment. • 85 Howe St., New Haven, 203-562-8444 mamouns.com. Open daily. L D LS, \$, WA

Park Central Tavern • American The dynamic weekly menu showcases signature entrées and classic favorites made with fresh New England ingredients. • 1640 Whitney Ave., Hamden, 203-287-8887 parkcentraltavern.com. Open daily. L D, \$, WA

Ristorante Luce • Classic Italian Enjoy the double-cut veal chops, pane cotto, risotto pescatore and daily fish specials. Extensive wine list. • 2987 Whitney Ave., Hamden, 203-407-8000 ristoranteluce.net. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$\$\$

Señor Pancho's • Mexican Festive spot serving up terrific fresh salsa and margaritas to go with mole poblano, steak ranchero and fajitas. • 280 Cheshire Road, Prospect, 203-758-7788; 385 Main St. S., Southbury, 203-262-6988 senorpanchos.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$, E, WA

Shell & Bones Oyster Bar & Grill • Seafood • EP This waterside restaurant features the celebrated creations of executive chef Arturo Franco-Camacho whose specialties include steak and seafood. • 100 South Water St., New Haven, 203-787-3466 shellandbones.com. Open daily. D L (Sat.-Sun.), \$\$\$

Shoreline Diner, Guilford • American • EP The seasonal menu focuses on fresh, natural ingredients, with lots of vegetarian and vegan options. • 345 Boston Post Road, Guilford, 203-458-7380 shorediner.com. Open daily. BLD, \$, WA

Stowe's • Seafood • EP This classic seafood shack has a simple menu of fresh fish, fried New England style, plus perfect lobster rolls, all served in paper boats. • 347 Beach St., West Haven, 203-934-1991 stowesseafood.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$\$

| New London County

Bleu Squid • American A bakery and cheese shop serving 30 cheeses and 40 different cupcakes. Also serves up grilled cheese sandwiches to go, freshly made and to order, including the best-selling lobster grilled cheese. • 27 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, 860-536-6343 dessertsmysticct.com. Open daily. L, \$, WA

The Captain Daniel Packer Inn • American This 1754 whaler's inn features a view of the Mystic River along with dishes like lemon pepper chicken, filet mignon and salmon. • 32 Water St., Mystic, 860-536-3555 danielpacker.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$\$, WA

Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant • Seafood • RC Flanders excels at lobster bisque, fish-and-chips and broiled seafood. Known for its bountiful Sunday buffet, fresh seafood market and New England clambakes. • 22 Chesterfield Road, East Lyme, 860-739-8866 flandersfish.com. Open daily. L D SB, \$\$\$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • Pizza While world-famous clam pizza is the standout, many others are also worth the wait. This expanding pizza empire continues to set the standard for Connecticut pies. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, 860-862-8888 pepespizzeria.com. Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, \$, WA

Kensington's at Norwich Inn • American A first-class restaurant serving gourmet food with an emphasis on natural meats, fresh, locally sourced produce and healthy preparations. • 607 West Thames St., Norwich, 860-425-3630 thespaatnorwichinn.com/kensingtons. Open daily. B L D SB, \$\$\$, E, WA

The Old Lyme Inn • American The Inn's restaurant and bar features a locally sourced menu with a modern twist on traditional dishes. • 85 Lyme St., Old Lyme, 860-434-2600 oldlymeinn.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$\$, WA

S&P Oyster Co. • Seafood • EP RC Serving traditional New England seafood with a South American flair. Enjoy oysters on the half shell, PEI mussels, fresh cuts of fish and Creekstone Farms steaks grilled over hardwoods. • 1 Holmes St., Mystic, 860-536-2674 sp-oyster.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

Tolland County

Bidwell Tavern & Cafe • American • EP This 1822 Coventry tavern, once the town hall, offers prime rib, chicken wings and 24 beers on tap. • 1260 Main St. (Route 31), Coventry, 860-742-6978. Open daily. L D LS, \$\$, E, WA

The Blue Oak at the Nathan Hale Inn • American On the UConn campus, enjoy honest New England-style dishes and lighter fare. Great wine selection. • 855 Bolton Road, Storrs, 860-427-7888 nathanhaleinn.com. Open daily. B L D, \$\$

Lake View • Fresh Seafood / Italian • EP Fresh seafood, Italian dishes, paninis, salads, burgers and wings are served in a casual, romantic waterside setting. • 50 Lake St., Coventry, 860-498-0500 coventrylakeview.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$, E, WA

Rein's New York Style Deli-Restaurant • American • EP Bright and bustling Jewish deli serving everything from challah French toast and potato pancakes to pastrami reubens and cheese blintzes. • 435 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, 860-875-1344 reinsdeli.com. Open daily. B L D LS SB, \$, WA

True Blue Tavern at the Nathan Hale Inn • American Great casual dining in a fun atmosphere celebrating the spirit of UConn athletics. • 855 Bolton Road, Storrs, 860-427-7888 nathanhaleinn.com. Open daily. D, \$, WA

Utsav Indian Cuisine • Indian • EP This gem boasts a menu of delectable Indian treats such as shamm savora or calamari cochin. • 575 Talcottville Road, Vernon, 860-871-8714 utsavcuisine.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$, WA

Windham County

The Courthouse Bar & Grille • American Serves 20 great appetizers, plus "arresting" main courses such as seafood Alfredo and Montreal sirloin. • 121 Main St., Putnam, 860-963-0074 courthousebarandgrille.com. Open daily. L D LS (weekends), \$, WA

Golden Lamb Buttery • American • EP In a barn overlooking a 1,000-acre farm, dinner here might be roast duckling, chateaubriand or honey-glazed rack of lamb. • 199 Bush Hill Road, Brooklyn, 860-774-4423 thegoldenlamb.com. Closed Sun.-Mon. L D (Fri.-Sat.), \$\$\$, E, WA

Hank's Restaurant • American A family place serving home-style chowders, lobster salad rolls and prime rib. • 416 Providence Road, Brooklyn, 860-774-6071 hanksrestaurant.com. Open daily. L D, \$\$

The Heirloom Food Company • Vegan • EP RC Organic cafe & juice bar offering locally sourced, organic ingredients. • 630 N. Main Street, Danielson, 860-779-3373 eatheirloomfood.com. Closed Sun.-Mon. B L, \$

The Inn at Woodstock Hill • American The menu at this historic estate includes shrimp-and-sea-scallop stir-fry and duckling à l'orange. • 94 Plaine Hill Road, Woodstock, 860-928-0528 woodstockhill.com. Open daily. L (Thurs.-Sat.) D SB, \$\$\$, WA

The Mansion at Bald Hill • American The pan-seared diver scallops with jumbo shrimp is tops, and don't skip the lobster mac 'n' cheese. • 29 Plaine Road, South Woodstock, 860-974-3456 mansionatbaldhill.com. Closed Mon. D, \$\$\$, WA

Roots Down • American • EP American-style bistro featuring locally raised produce and meats. • 18 Route 171, Woodstock, 860-315-5614 roots-down.net. Closed Mon. & Tues. L D SB, \$\$

Willimantic Brewing Co. / Main Street Café • Brew Pub • EP This pioneering brewery is located within a historic U.S. Post Office building. Beers are brewed in full view of diners. Try the ale-steamed mussels. Other Connecticut craft beers available. • 967 Main St., Willimantic, 860-423-6777 willibrew.com. Open daily. L (Tues.-Sun.) D, \$\$, WA



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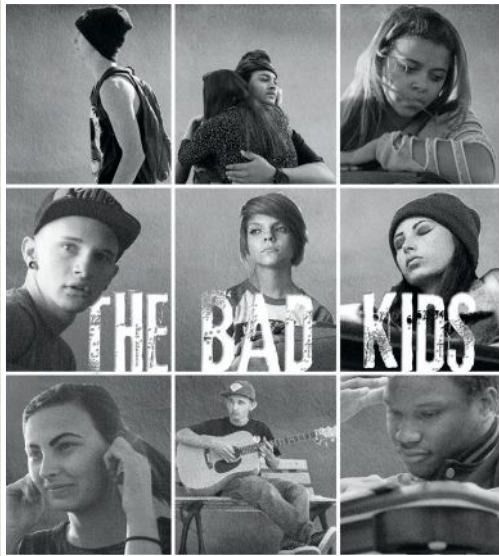
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DEADLINES: Materials should be received by the 25th of the second month preceding the issue (for example, March 25 for May).

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CPTV and Independent Lens Present Free Screenings of Upcoming Films



The Bad Kids **An Indie Lens Pop-Up Presentation**

Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m. | Linsly-Chittenden Hall
Room 101 | Yale University

Free screening and discussion

Located in an impoverished Mojave Desert community, Black Rock Continuation High School is an alternative school for students at risk of dropping out. Extraordinary educators believe that empathy and life skills, more than academics, give these underserved students command of their own futures.

Sponsored by CPTV, Yale Film Study Center,
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FREE SCREENINGS



Newtown

Saturday, April 1 at 3 p.m.

Ring Family Performing Arts Hall | Wesleyan University

Free screening followed by a moderated panel discussion | Registration is required to attend

Newtown uses deeply personal testimonies to tell the story of the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, the deadliest mass shooting of schoolchildren in American history. Along with the filmmaker, local leaders and experts will participate in a moderated discussion focusing on community resilience and healing, and ways gun violence can be addressed.

Sponsored by CPTV and Independent Lens

For more information, please visit cptv.org.

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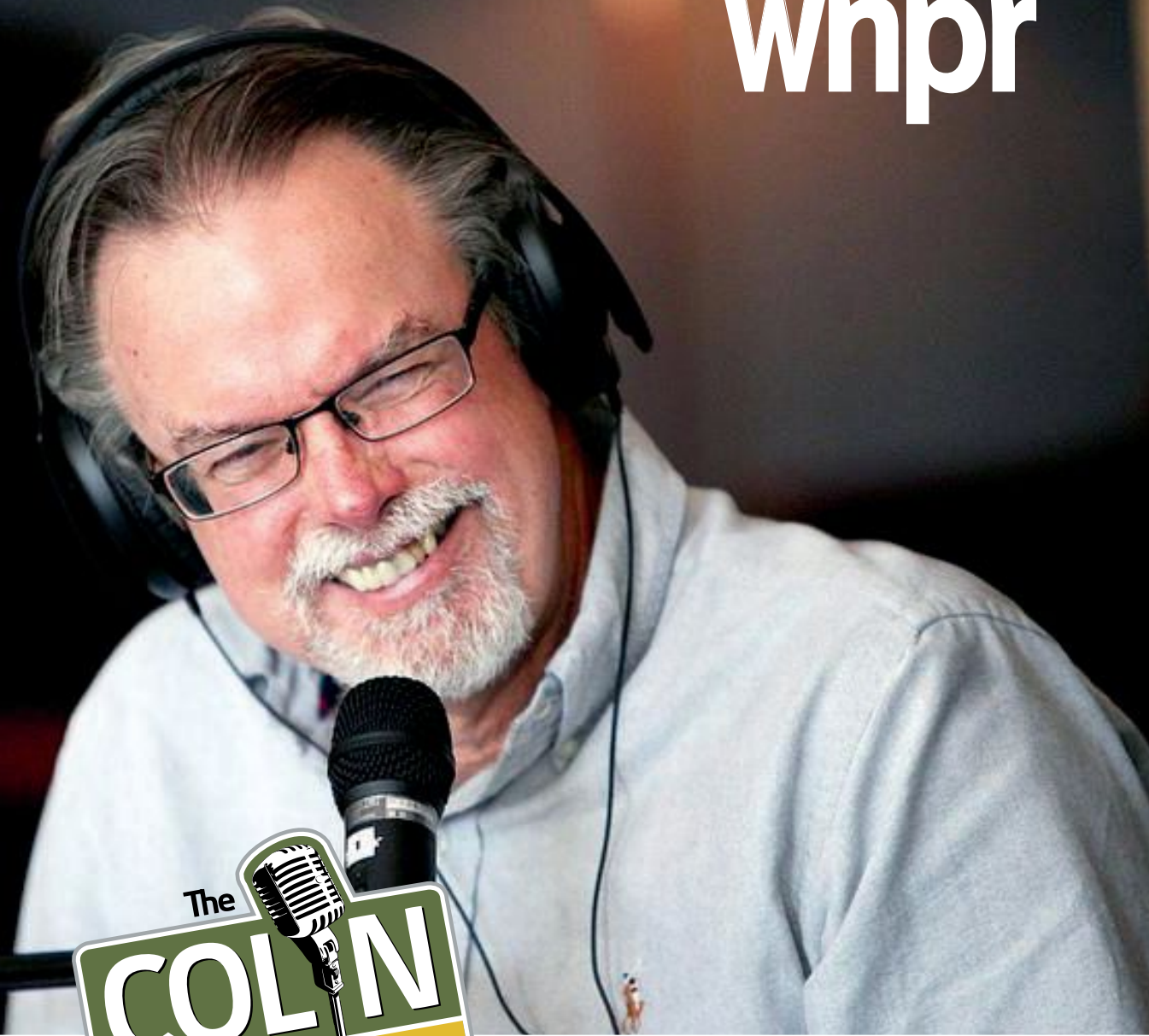


03.2017

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC BROADCASTING NETWORK

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Making Radio Accessible for New Audiences

WNPR's *The Colin McEnroe Show* Partners
with American School for the Deaf and Source
Interpreting to Translate Live Broadcasts



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN), home to Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) and Connecticut Public Radio (WNPR), we are dedicated to quality journalism. Trust, truth, facts, and accountability — these are the tenets that make up the foundation of the free press. In a time when the truth and press are repeatedly under attack, we remain committed to being a trustworthy resource for fact-based news and ideas.

As I mentioned in my recent op-ed in the *Hartford Courant*, we hope to accomplish this "...by reporting the truth and vetting facts — real facts. By holding our elected officials accountable to those they represent and whose lives they greatly influence. And by inviting all people to participate in conversations about current affairs that will help to inform our fellow citizens."

Two examples of recent community engagement brought together citizens and media leaders from around Connecticut to discuss *The Press*, *The President and The Public*, and *Facing Change: What Makes a City a Sanctuary?* We look forward to holding more events like this in the future and hope you will join us for them. And I trust you have had a chance to listen to a new program on WNPR. It's called *Indivisible* and it's on at 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. It has some new and diverse voices. It may surprise you.

We also experimented with making our storytelling more accessible for new audiences. Over the past few months, *The Colin McEnroe Show* has partnered with the American School for the Deaf and Source Interpreting to translate two episodes of the weekday radio show into American Sign Language, which was then streamed on Facebook Live. For more information, see this issue's feature story.

As we settle into 2017, we hope to be an essential source of objective, quality journalism, culture, and civic engagement for the state. These efforts, however, would not be possible without the support of you, our members. Thank you for all that you do!

Jerry Franklin
President and CEO, Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network

"What's On!"

is published monthly as a supplement in Connecticut Magazine by Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network, 1049 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105. Connecticut Magazine, 100 Gando Drive, New Haven, CT 06513, is published monthly by Digital First Media, Lower Makefield Corporate Center; 790 Township Line Road, 3rd Floor, Yardley, PA 19067. Editorial content for "What's On!", the 16-page program guide devoted to CPTV and WNPR, is determined by Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN), a nonprofit corporation chartered by the state of Connecticut.

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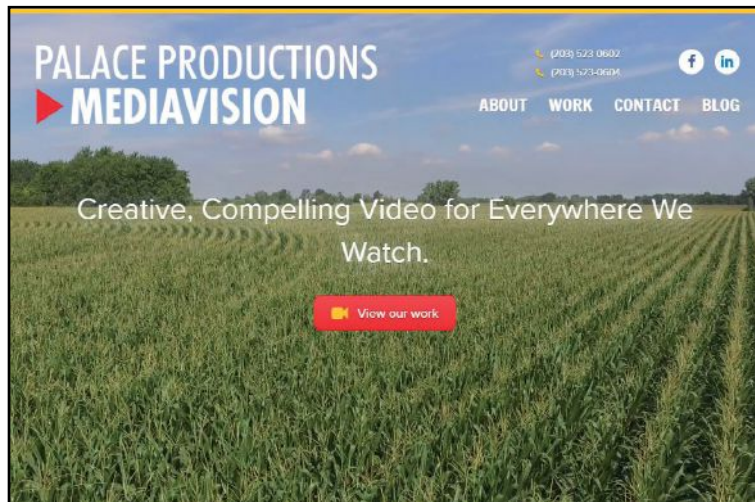
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HIGHLIGHTS

Secrets of the Dead: Nero's Sunken City

**Wednesday, March 29
at 10 p.m. on CPTV**

Discover the underwater secrets of a decadent seaside city where Nero and Julius Caesar once had villas.



Yosemite

**Wednesday, March 29 at 8 p.m.
on CPTV**

Yosemite is a land forged in wildfire and sculpted by water, but with climate change, water is scarcer and fire more common. Join scientists and adventurers to investigate how these global changes are affecting one of America's greatest wildernesses.



To Walk Invisible: The Bronte Sisters on Masterpiece

Sunday, March 26 at 9 p.m. on CPTV

Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Bronte, all unmarried, faced a bleak future. Unable to rely on family to provide for them, they worked as governesses to privileged and often unruly children. Learn the extraordinary story of how, against all odds, the famous literary trio had their genius for writing romantic novels recognized in a male-dominated, 19th-century world.



Fernando Varela: Coming Home (Live in Studio)

**Sunday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. and
Thursday, March 9 at 8 p.m. on CPTV**

Catch the Puerto Rican-born, Orlando native as he returns home and dazzles a crowd with his stunning tenor. Concert tickets will be available.



Making Radio Accessible for New Audiences



In January and February of this year, WNPR's *The Colin McEnroe Show* experimented with a new format. By partnering with Hartford's American School for the Deaf (ASD) and Source Interpreting, they were able to translate two episodes of the weekday show into American Sign Language (ASL), which they streamed on Facebook Live.

CPBN spoke with McEnroe and his producer Josh Nilaya to find out how this idea came to life, what was most surprising about the experience, and what they are planning for future broadcasts.



Where did the idea to interpret *The Colin McEnroe Show* into ASL come from?

McEnroe: In March of 2016, Josh had an idea for a show about braille and ASL because each one was facing challenges among its client populations. We did this show, and for half of it I was speaking on the air with Jeff Bravin, Executive Director of the ASD. There was something very profound about this experience. A 30-minute conversation on the radio with someone who can't hear or speak. I was almost weeping at the end.

And that was that. Except that we had done a radio show about an issue of vital interest to deaf and hard-of-hearing people, and they had no access to it. Months went by, but in late November it struck me how easy streaming video on Facebook Live had become. I asked Josh if he would want to try to develop [an ASL version] of the show.

Nilaya: I was surprised to find out that it really hadn't been tried before. Some limited attempts had been made a few years ago to offer radio in closed captioning, but it was largely unsuccessful. In addition to closed captioning radio requiring its audience to have special equipment to view it, it was not able to capture or convey the personalities of the show's guests or host - something which is essential to enjoying radio.

A good ASL interpreter can convey the personality of a speaker. Source Interpreting had actually hand-selected a specific interpreter for Colin due to their feeling that her manner of signing most accurately reflected his on-air personality.

This show had a lot of moving pieces. What challenges did you face while putting it all together?

Nilaya: One of the most surprising challenges that we faced was discovering that when on camera, ASL interpreters must wear outfits which contrast with the background colors. Otherwise, their hands appear to be floating in space on screen. It seemed so obvious once we were told. In a way, this speaks to a much larger issue we faced: our inability to see what should've been obvious because we were untuned to the needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing. I'd like to think in some ways this project has taught us to think more inclusively.

McEnroe: The rest of our team backed Josh up: Producers Betsy Kaplan and Jonathan McNicol and Technical Producer Chion Wolf, among others.

Does WNPR plan to produce more shows like this? If so, what are the plans/ideas for the future?

Nilaya: The next *Colin McEnroe Show* featuring ASL interpretation aired on February 22 and focused on the topic of shyness. Our goal is to ramp up production of these ASL editions. Honestly, despite the few challenges this project presented us with, there's no reason ASL radio shouldn't be happening every day at stations around the country.

McEnroe: Ultimately, we hope to strip away some of the technology we're using. The goal is to make it simple and easy so we can show it to other NPR stations around the country so that they can try it too.

Any final thoughts on the experience?

McEnroe: One thing that stuck with me came from Sarah Gerhold of Source Interpreting. She said to me, "I know you as a writer. That's all. I've been reading your work for a long time, and I know you do radio, but I don't know what a radio show sounds like." This kept us going, I think.

For more information and to view episode recordings for the shows mentioned above, please visit wnpr.org or facebook.com/ColinMcShow.



Prime Time | March 1-6

- CPTV Original, CPTV National Production or Presentation, or CPTV Co-production indicated in **blue font**.
- Program or episode premiere indicated by a **P**. Live broadcasts indicated by a **L**.
- Asterisk indicates that show begins prior to 8 p.m.; two asterisks indicate that show ends after 12 a.m. Visit CPTV.org/schedule for exact start and end times.
- This schedule is accurate as of press time; visit CPTV.org/schedule for the most up-to-date program schedule.

| WED 1 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|---------------|--|------|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| CPTV | Spy in the Wild: A Nature Mini-series - Meet the Spies P Follow the evolution of the Spy Creatures. | | Africa's Great Civilizations - Part 2 P This documentary series with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. brings to life the epic stories of both little-known and celebrated African kingdoms and cultures. | | | Antiques Roadshow - Palm Springs, Part 2 A Roy Lichtenstein screenprint is appraised. | | |
| CPTV4U | Antiques Roadshow - Palm Springs, Part 2 | | Antiques Roadshow - Santa Clara, Part 1 | | Antiques Roadshow - The Civil War Years | | Charlie Rose | |
| THU 2 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | A Place to Call Home - The Mourners' Kadish P A wedding takes place in spite of protestations. | | Africa's Great Civilizations - Part 3 P (See CPTV, March 1 at 9 p.m.) | | | Ask This Old House | | This Old House |
| CPTV4U | Finding Your Roots - Family Reunions | | Independent Lens - A Ballerina's Tale | | Virginia Lee Burton: A Sense of Place P | | Charlie Rose | |
| FRI 3 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Midsomer Murders - Days of Misrule, Part 2 An explosion at a trucking company is investigated. | | Hamilton's America The creation of pop-culture Broadway phenomenon <i>Hamilton</i> and the history behind it are explored. | | | Bluegrass Underground | | Sun Studio Sessions |
| CPTV4U | NOVA - Mystery Beneath the Ice | | Nature - Snowbound: Animals of Winter | | Nature - Snow Chick Follow a charismatic penguin chick. | | Charlie Rose | |
| SAT 4 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Roy Orbison: Black and White Night 30* P (Start: 7:30 p.m.) The iconic concert is celebrated. | | Joe Bonamassa: Live at the Greek Theatre P Blues-rock master Joe Bonamassa delivers a musical tribute to the Three Kings of the Blues. | | | Eric Clapton: Slowhand at 70 - Live at the Royal Albert Hall A celebration of the legendary guitarist's 70th birthday features "Layla" and other classic songs. | | |
| CPTV4U | Masterpiece Mystery! - Miss Marple, Series 7: A Caribbean Mystery A guest at a tropical hotel dies. | | | Masterpiece Mystery! - Endeavour, Series 2: Trove A dead man leaves a mysterious final message. | | | Crimson Field - Part 1 Meet WWI nurses working in a field hospital. | |
| SUN 5 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Mercy Street, Season 2 - Part 6: House of Bondage P The Greens suffer a setback. | | Victoria on Masterpiece - Part 7: Young England P In this season finale, Victoria spurns advice and wanders outside. Stay tuned after this episode for an "after-party." | | | BrainFit: 50 Ways to Grow Your Brain with Daniel Amen, M.D., and Tana Amen, R.N.** Daniel and Tana Amen share tips for igniting energy and focus at any age. | | |
| CPTV4U | Alicia Keys: Landmarks Live in Concert P | | Austin City Limits - TV on the Radio/The War on Drugs | | The Kate - Ana Gasteyer Gasteyer performs "One Mint Julep" and more. | | Infinity Hall Live - Ani DiFranco See the folk-rock icon in concert. | |
| MON 6 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Magic Moments: Best of '50s Pop (My Music) Top pop hits of the 1950s, full of smooth harmonies, joyful melodies, and warm vocals, are featured. | | | | This Land Is Your Land (My Music) The Smothers Brothers and Judy Collins host a look at the evolution of modern American folk music. | | | Suze Orman's Financial Solutions for You** |
| CPTV4U | Nature - Invasion of the Killer Whales | | Glacier Park's Night of the Grizzlies A deadly grizzly bear attack on campers in 1967 is recounted. | | | Katmai: Alaska's Wild... | Charlie Rose | |



Joe Bonamassa: Live at the Greek Theatre
Saturday, March 4 at 9 p.m.,
Sunday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m., and
Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. on CPTV



EXCLUSIVE TICKET AND MEET & GREET OPPORTUNITIES

Celebrated blues rock master Joe Bonamassa delivers a tribute performance to the Three Kings of Blues - Albert King, Freddie King, and B.B. King - at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.

Prime Time | March 7-12

| TUE 7 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|---------------|---|------|--|---|--|---|---|-------|
| CPTV | Forever Painless with Miranda Esmonde-White Get an eye-opening look at chronic pain and its causes. | | | Hamilton's America (See CPTV, March 3 at 9 p.m.) | | | Dr. David Perlmutter's Whole Life... ** | |
| CPTV4U | The Dr. Blake Mysteries - The Visible World | | The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece - Part 1 | | The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece - Part 2 | | Charlie Rose | |
| WED 8 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Nature - Super Hummingbirds High-speed camera-work and breakthrough science capture the fast-paced world of hummingbirds. | | | BrainFit: 50 Ways to Grow Your Brain with Daniel Amen, M.D., and Tana Amen, R.N. (See CPTV, March 5 at 10:30 p.m.) | | | Roy Orbison: Black and White Night 30** | |
| CPTV4U | Antiques Roadshow - Charleston, Part 3 | | Irish Catskills: Dancing at the Crossroads P | | Secrets of the Dead - Death on the Railroad | | Charlie Rose | |
| THU 9 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Fernando Varela: Coming Home P Join the world-class tenor and special guests for a magical evening showcasing musical favorites. | | | Roy Orbison: Black and White Night 30 (See CPTV, March 4 at 8 p.m.) | | Rock Rewind: 1967-1969 (My Music)** P Vintage TV appearances by top '60s acts are featured. | | |
| CPTV4U | Freedom Riders: American Experience Follow the journey of the courageous band of civil-rights activists in the Deep South in 1961. | | | | John Lewis: Get in the Way P The civil rights hero is profiled. | | Charlie Rose | |
| FRI 10 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Ken Burns: America's Storyteller P Join Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and more for a tribute to the acclaimed filmmaker. | | | Dr. David Perlmutter's Whole Life Plan Dr. Perlmutter provides a plan for improving physical, mental, and cognitive health. | | Motown 25 (My Music Presents)** See performances by the Jackson 5 and more. | | |
| CPTV4U | NOVA - Why Ships Sink Famous cruise ship disasters are explored. | | Blizzard of '78 The infamous blizzard devastated Connecticut. | | Flood of '55 Hurricanes Connie and Diane spawned record rainfall. | | Charlie Rose | |
| SAT 11 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Joe Bonamassa: Live at the Greek Theatre* (Start: 7:30 p.m.; See CPTV, March 4 at 9 p.m.) | | Rock Rewind: 1967-1969 (My Music) (See CPTV, March 9 at 11 p.m.) | | Simon and Garfunkel: The Concert in Central Park The duo performs a moving history of their music, with songs like "Mrs. Robinson," "The Boxer," and more. | | | |
| CPTV4U | Masterpiece Mystery! - Miss Marple, Series 7: Greenshaw's Folly A loyal butler is killed. | | | Masterpiece Mystery! - Endeavour, Series 2: Nocturne Morse investigates at a girls' school. | | Crimson Field - Part 2 The hospital readies for new patients. | | |
| SUN 12 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Roy Orbison: Black and White Night 30* (Start: 7:30 p.m.; See CPTV, March 4 at 8 p.m.) | | Victoria After-Party P Season 1 of Victoria gets a royal sendoff by cast members and creators. | | Forever Painless with Miranda Esmonde-White (See CPTV, March 7 at 8 p.m.) | | Meditation for All of Us** | |
| CPTV4U | Woodsongs - Preservation Hall Jazz Band P | | Austin City Limits - The Black Keys/J. Roddy Walston and the... | | The Kate - Ann Wilson Wilson, of the rock band Heart, performs. | | Infinity Hall Live - Melissa Etheridge | |




Forever Painless with Miranda Esmonde-White (Live in Studio)

**Saturday, March 4 at 3 p.m.,
Tuesday, March 7 at 8 p.m.,
Saturday, March 11 at 8:30 a.m., and
Sunday, March 12 at 10 p.m. on CPTV**

Miranda Esmonde-White, the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Aging Backwards*, addresses the topic of chronic pain in this new special. Viewers will receive a groundbreaking and eye-opening education on pain and its causes as well as new approaches to pain management.

Prime Time | March 13-18

| MON 13 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|---------------|--|------|---|---|--|-------|--|-------|
| CPTV | Viewers' Favorites From beloved music programs to helpful how-to's, CPTV presents some of its most popular specials. | | | | | | | |
| CPTV4U | Buddies: How Dogs Discovered Man | | Nature - Pets: Wild at Heart, Parts 1 and 2 This two-part <i>Nature</i> special takes a revolutionary look at pets. Go inside their secret world! | | | | Charlie Rose | |
| TUE 14 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, March 13 at 8 p.m.) | | | | | | | |
| CPTV4U | Father Brown - The Sign of the Broken Sword | | The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece - Part 3 | | The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece - Part 4 | | Charlie Rose | |
| WED 15 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, March 13 at 8 p.m.) | | | | | | | |
| CPTV4U | Antiques Roadshow - Albuquerque, Part 1 | | Race Underground: American Experience | | Secrets of Underground London Explore the wonders under London. | | Charlie Rose | |
| THU 16 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, March 13 at 8 p.m.) | | | | | | | |
| CPTV4U | Finding Your Roots - The Irish Factor | | Ireland: The Roads Taken with Tommy Makem, Parts 1 and 2  Celebrated folk artist Tommy Makem travels the unspoiled Irish countryside. | | | | Charlie Rose | |
| FRI 17 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Downton Abbey on Masterpiece - Season 4 Marathon Starting at 8 p.m., see an all-night marathon of <i>Downton's</i> fourth season. | | | | | | | |
| CPTV4U | NOVA - Big Bang Machine Go inside the quest for the Higgs Boson. | | Aurora: Fire in the Sky Examine legends surrounding the aurora. | | Comet Encounter Follow Comet ISON's brush with the sun. | | Charlie Rose | |
| SAT 18 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Downton Abbey on Masterpiece - Season 5 Marathon* (Start: 9 a.m.) Return to Downton Abbey for a marathon of Season 5 episodes beginning at 9 a.m. | | | | Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, March 13 at 8 p.m.) | | | |
| CPTV4U | Masterpiece Mystery! - Miss Marple, Series 7: Endless Night Did a curse cause suspicious deaths? | | | Masterpiece Mystery! - Endeavour, Series 2: Sway A housewife is found choked to death. | | | Crimson Field - Part 3 Thomas wrestles with a growing attraction. | |



DOWNTON ABBEY

Marathon: Seasons 4-6

Friday March 17 at 8 p.m.,
Saturday, March 18 at 9 a.m.,
and Sunday, March 19 at 8 a.m.
on CPTV

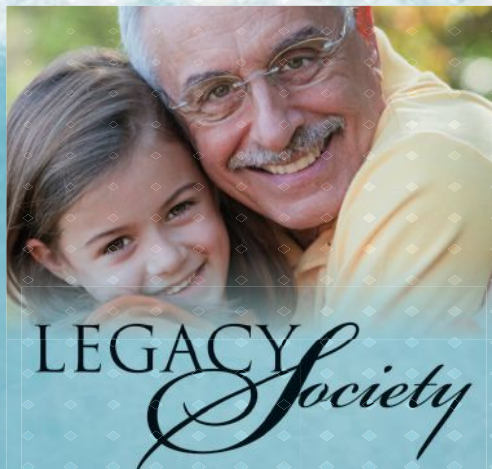
Take a look back at the final three seasons of the beloved classic with this mini-marathon.

Prime Time | March 19-24

| SUN 19 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|----------|---|---|---|------|--|--------------|--|---------------------|
| CPTV | Downton... - S'son 6 M'thon* (Start: 8 a.m.) | Roy Orbison: Black and White Night 30 (See CPTV, March 4 at 8 p.m.) | | | Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, March 13 at 8 p.m.) | | | |
| CPTV4U | Celtic Tenors: No Boundaries The tenors give an eclectic performance. | | Austin City Limits - Eric Church | | The Kate - Rita Wilson The actress and singer performs classics. | | Infinity Hall Live - Rhiannon Giddens | |
| MON 20 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Antiques Roadshow - Albuquerque, Part 2 Finds include a Jasper Johns flag print. | | Antiques Roadshow - Albuquerque, Part 3 A Fender Stratocaster is appraised. | | Let There Be Light Grand masters of stained glass work to complete a masterpiece. | | Independent Lens - The Bad Kids** Educators work to help underserved students. | |
| CPTV4U | Nature - India's Wandering Lions Meet Asia's last wild lions. | | Nature - The Story of Cats, Parts 1 and 2 Get a look at this unique species and the evolutionary tricks and adaptations that make a cat, a cat. | | | Charlie Rose | | |
| TUE 21 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | 1916: The Irish Rebellion - Parts 1, 2, and 3 Narrated by Liam Neeson, this series tells the dramatic story of the events that took place in Dublin during Easter of 1916, when a small group of poorly armed Irish rebels took on the might of the British Empire. | | | | | | Frontline - Iraq Uncovered Get a look inside the fight for the future of the country. | |
| CPTV4U | Father Brown - The Last Man (See CPTV, March 23 at 9 p.m.) | | The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece - Part 5 | | The Durrells in Corfu on Masterpiece - Part 6 | | Charlie Rose | |
| WED 22 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Nature - Great Zebra Exodus Zebras make an epic migration in Africa. | | Nature - The Mystery of Eels Enter the mysterious world of the eel. | | Living with Alzheimer's and Dementia Explore the effects of Alzheimer's and dementia. | | Antiques Roadshow - Albuquerque, Part 2 (See CPTV, March 20 at 8 p.m.) | |
| CPTV4U | Antiques Roadshow - Albuquerque, Part 2 | | 1916: The Irish Rebellion - Part 1 (See CPTV, March 21 at 8 p.m.) | | Ballyfin: Portrait of an Irish Country House | | Charlie Rose | |
| THU 23 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | A Place to Call Home - The Love Undeniable Sarah has returned to work at the hospital. | | Father Brown - The Last Man Kembleford's new cricket captain is framed for murder. | | Father Brown - The Invisible Man The circus brings death to town when a clown is murdered. | | Ask This Old House | This Old House |
| CPTV4U | Women's List: American Masters Influential women are profiled. | | Makers - Women in Business Meet female business leaders. | | Frontline - Iraq Uncovered (See CPTV, March 21 at 11 p.m.) | | Charlie Rose | |
| FRI 24 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Midsomer Murders - Talking to the Dead, Part 1 Two couples disappear near the woods. | | Death in Paradise - The Complex Murder A millionaire environmentalist and scientist is shot. | | The Kate - Mary Lambert Lambert, a performer on the hit song "Same Love," is featured. | | Bluegrass Underground | Sun Studio Sessions |
| CPTV4U | NOVA - Surviving Ebola The 2013 Ebola epidemic is explored. | | Forgotten Plague: American Experience | | Black Women in Medicine Black female doctors are profiled. | | Charlie Rose | |

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Prime Time | March 25-31

| SAT 25 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
|--------|--|------|--|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| CPTV | Mary Tyler Moore: A Celebration This look at Mary Tyler Moore's career features clips and interviews. | | Wuthering Heights - Parts 1 and 2 Witness Heathcliff and Cathy's fiery romance in this adaptation of Emily Bronte's classic novel. Tom Hardy and Charlotte Riley star. | | | | | Father Brown - The Last Man** |
| CPTV4U | Masterpiece Mystery! - Poirot, Series 12: The Big Four Poirot investigates a chess grandmaster's death. | | | Masterpiece Mystery! - Endeavour, Series 2: Neverland Morse faces a brace of cases at once. | | | Crimson Field - Part 4 An arrival of soldiers lifts Joan's spirits. | |
| SUN 26 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Wuthering Heights - Parts 1 and 2* (Start: 6:30 p.m.; See CPTV, March 25 at 9 p.m.) | | To Walk Invisible: The Bronte Sisters P The Bronte sisters – Emily, Anne, and Charlotte – battle to overcome obstacles and publish their novels. | | | A Place to Call Home - The Love Undeniable (See CPTV, March 23 at 8 p.m.) | | Mary Tyler Moore: A Celebration** |
| CPTV4U | Woodsongs - Sweet Honey and the Rock P | | Austin City Limits - James Taylor | | Carole King: American Masters The singer-songwriter is profiled. | | Infinity Hall Live - America The Grammy-winning band performs. | |
| MON 27 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Antiques Roadshow - Palm Springs, Part 3 P The team returns to southern California. | | Antiques Roadshow - Chicago, Part 1 A "Chicago Seven" signed subpoena is appraised. | | Voices: Untold Stories of Mental Illness P Three people reveal their struggles with mental illness. | | Independent Lens - Ovarian Psycos P Meet cyclists committed to confronting racism and violence. | |
| CPTV4U | SuperNature - Wild Flyers, Parts 1, 2, and 3 In this three-part series, learn how animals overcome one of the planet's most powerful and universal forces – gravity. | | | | | | Charlie Rose | |
| TUE 28 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Dead Reckoning: War and Justice - Parts 1, 2, and 3 P Civilians worldwide are increasingly the targets of war crimes. This unprecedented series examines the evolution of postwar justice in investigating genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other atrocities. | | | | | | Roadtrip Nation: Beyond the Dream P Three 20-something immigrants explore America. | |
| CPTV4U | Father Brown - The Invisible Man (See CPTV, March 23 at 10 p.m.) | | Quirke - Christine Falls Quirke is perturbed when his adoptive brother appears to tamper with evidence. | | | Theater Talk | | Charlie Rose |
| WED 29 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Nature - Yosemite P With climates changing and temperatures rising, the Sierras are under siege. | | NOVA - Secrets of the Viking Sword The revolutionary Ulfberht sword is reconstructed. | | Secrets of the Dead - Nero's Sunken City P Catch a new episode of this investigative series. | | Secrets of the Dead - Carthage's Lost Warriors Did Carthaginians flee across the Atlantic Ocean? | |
| CPTV4U | Antiques Roadshow - Palm Springs, Part 3 | | 1916: The Irish Rebellion - Part 2 (See CPTV, March 21 at 8 p.m.) | | Bloody Irish! Songs of the 1916 Rising The Dublin Easter Rising is celebrated through musical theater. | | | Charlie Rose: The Week |
| THU 30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Father Brown - The Kembleford Boggart The father of a young writer is murdered. | | Father Brown - The Lair of the Libertines Father Brown and his friends find themselves stranded. | | Midsomer Murders - Talking to the Dead, Part 1 (See CPTV, March 24 at 8 p.m.) | | Ask This Old House | This Old House |
| CPTV4U | Independent Lens - East of Salinas This story about immigration focuses on a California third grader. | | | POV - American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs The philosopher-activist is profiled. | | | Charlie Rose | |
| FRI 31 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 | 11:30 |
| CPTV | Midsomer Murders - Talking to the Dead, Part 2 (See CPTV, March 24 at 8 p.m.) | | Death in Paradise - One for the Road P Saint Marie's governor is killed. | | Great Performances - Dudamel Conducts Tangos Under the Stars with the L.A. Philharmonic P Enjoy an evening of Latin music at the Hollywood Bowl. | | | Sun Studio Sessions |
| CPTV4U | NOVA - Secrets of the Viking... (See CPTV, March 29 at 9 p.m.) | | Secrets of the Dead - Carthage's... (See CPTV, March 29 at 11 p.m.) | | Secrets of the Dead - The Real Trojan Horse | | Charlie Rose | |



Dead Reckoning: War & Justice

Tuesday, March 28 at 8 p.m. on CPTV

Civilians worldwide are increasingly the targets of war crimes. This unprecedented series examines the evolution of postwar justice in investigating genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other atrocities and in prosecuting the perpetrators.

cptvKids



Catch New Episodes of Old Favorites All Month Long on CPTV Kids

The month of March is filled with brand new episodes of classic CPTV Kids programs! Join Elmo, Big Bird, and the other residents of *Sesame Street* when new episodes premiere on Mondays throughout March. Also, the *Odd Squad* agency is back in action with a collection of brand new missions starting Monday, March 20.



For a complete
schedule, visit
cptv.org/schedule.



THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Russian National Ballet

Thursday, Mar 30, 7:30 p.m.

This crowning jewel of Russian choreographer Marius Petipa's career is often considered to be the finest achievement of the Classical ballet genre. Directed by legendary Bolshoi principal dancer Elena Radchenko, the full length ballet is set to Tchaikovsky's lush and romantic musical score. With over 50 beautifully costumed dancers, *The Sleeping Beauty* comes alive amidst magical effects and courtly splendor, while upholding the grand national tradition of Russian ballet.

TICKETS

Adults \$40, \$37, \$34

Kids & Students \$15

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The Red Spy Queen

LONG BEFORE TALK OF RUSSIAN HACKING DOMINATED THE HEADLINES, CONNECTICUT'S ELIZABETH BENTLEY WAS AT THE HEART OF A DIFFERENT TYPE OF ESPIONAGE SCANDAL

On an unusually chilly summer day in August 1945, Elizabeth Bentley walked into the New Haven field office of the FBI.

Nazi Germany had been defeated a few months earlier and the uneasy wartime alliance between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was over. And thanks in part to Bentley — a Soviet spy turned double agent — the Cold War was about to start in earnest. The information she would provide FBI agents would directly fuel the anti-Communist witch hunts spearheaded by Joseph McCarthy, temporarily stop Soviet espionage activity in the U.S. and lead to convictions in two of the most famous spying cases in U.S. history — the Rosenbergs and Alger Hiss.

In the months and years after that meeting with the FBI, Bentley would emerge as the poster girl of early Cold War espionage. She had a list of ex-lovers longer than a Hollywood screenwriter would dare invent and her life story reads like a real-world version of FX's show *The Americans*. Newspapers described the Connecticut woman-turned-Soviet spy as "a shapely blonde" in a "form-fitting black dress." In reality, Bentley was "a large-boned, self-confident brunette with a sharp nose and receding chin," and her life contained more gloom than glamour, writes Kathryn S. Olmsted, author of *Red Spy Queen*, the definitive biography of Bentley. "Above all, she was an intensely lonely woman searching for love and acceptance," Olmsted writes.

Born in New Milford in 1908 to middle-class Republican parents, Bentley received her undergraduate degree from Vassar College and her master's degree in languages from Columbia University. She got her first brush with international politics in 1933 when she won a fellowship to the University of Florence. In Italy, she briefly joined the fascist student movement before being persuaded against the cause by Mario Casella, her academic adviser and one of several Italian lovers.

Returning to New York in 1934, Bentley was now fiercely anti-fascist and gravitated to communism, officially joining the Communist Party in 1935. She volunteered to spy on fascist Italy's New York City

propaganda agency, where she got a job. She engaged in increasingly brazen espionage activities over the next few years. In 1938, she met Jacob Golos, an important Soviet agent who controlled a network of Communist Party members who worked for New Deal agencies and spied on the U.S. government for him. Golos became Bentley's handler and lover.

Bentley helped Golos communicate with his sources, serving as a courier and making regular trips from New York to Washington. It was through Bentley that the Soviets received intelligence from the Silvermaster group, an infamous spy ring centered around Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, an economist with the U.S. War Production Board. Silvermaster would transport sensitive microfilm documents to Bentley every few weeks.

In 1943, Bolos died of a heart attack and Bentley took over his spy network. But the work was not the same without Bolos. Bentley had long been prone to bouts of depression and alcoholism, and she slipped into both following Bolos' death.

When her new Soviet handler wanted her to provide the names of her spy contacts, she resisted. In 1945, she began an affair with a man she came to suspect was either an FBI or Soviet agent sent to spy on her. Her fears increased after she launched into a drunken tirade against her new handler. She began fearing for her life.

It was at this time that she walked into the New Haven field office in her home state of Connecticut. She defected shortly afterward, and by the end of 1945 had given the FBI more than 50 names. However, the Soviet Union quickly learned of her defection through Kim Philby, a high-ranking member of Britain's MI6, who was in reality a double agent working for the Soviets.

With word of Bentley's defection out, all illegal activity among the spy ring she had once run ceased, and intense FBI surveillance of those whose names Bentley had provided turned up nothing.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover verified Bentley's story through the top-secret Venona project, which intercepted and decoded Soviet transmissions.



Elizabeth Bentley PHOTO BY C.M. STIEGLITZ, WORLD TELEGRAM STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

But information obtained through Venona couldn't be used in court because the project was deemed too valuable to publicize. Unable to prosecute the suspected spies, Hoover gave Bentley's story to members of Congress with the understanding that they would launch congressional inquiries and generate enough bad publicity for those on the list that their careers in the U.S. would be over and value as spies eradicated.

In 1948, Bentley appeared before the House Un-American Activities Committee, helping to begin what would grow into a communist witch hunt. In the 1950s, Bentley testified at several congressional hearings and criminal trials, including the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and wrote a memoir, *Out of Bondage*. In her memoir she exaggerated her story, a practice she increased as her life went on, causing some to mistakenly dismiss her as a liar.

In the late 1950s, she largely faded into obscurity. Bentley returned to Connecticut, where she worked as a teacher, first in Hartford and then in Middletown, teaching English at the Long Lane School for Girls, a state correctional institution. She taught there for the final five years of her life, and lived in nearby Middlefield. Bentley died on Dec. 3, 1963, from abdominal cancer at Grace-New Haven Hospital. She was 55. But in those 55 years, the woman from quiet New Milford had been at the center of the espionage between the world's two superpowers, and, for better or for worse, had changed the world.

No Time for ME!

EVENT SERIES

MARCH 26-27, 2017

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Living a life of purpose meaning taking small action steps each and every day. Are you able to answer, "What's My Why? Perhaps you're working towards a goal or a dream or need to figure out what your dream may be. Join us this weekend, and you'll have the opportunity to clear the dust and reach your true potential. Seminar materials will lead you towards your "Why" with steps toward intentional living.

JUNE 25-26, 2017

LIVING A LIFE OF VITALITY... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Vitality is a contagious and bountiful vibrancy, enthusiasm, energy and joy that you want to share with others, and that makes you productive and focused. Who wouldn't want that in their life? Learn how to incorporate balance of attitude, lifestyle skills and a great mindset that keeps you happy, healthy and at the top of your game. Your energy will be contagious! People will ask you what you're up to!!

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2017

MINDFULNESS: STOP THE MULTI-TASKING!

Stop the multi-tasking and embrace mono-tasking! Just because your busy doesn't mean that life has to pass you by. If we can learn to stay in the moment and be centered, we can bring a whole new meaning to productivity and enjoyment of day to day living. Tap into the growing body of research that attests to the benefits of being centered! Attend this seminar and take away tips on outsmarting stress, relieving your mind of relentless mental loads how to eat better, sleep better and avoid illness.



Marie E. Mozzi

Vitality Coach

March 26-27, 2017
June 25-26, 2017
September 24-25, 2017



Jana Hexter

Intuitive and Founder of the Institute for Circlework

March 26-27, 2017



Alicia Farell, Ph.D.

*Cognitive Psychologist,
Former University Professor, and
Founder of Clearview Consulting*

June 25-26, 2017



Dr. Jerry Silbert

*Physician and "Mindfulness"
Coach trained at Harvard's
Mind/Body Medical Institute*

September 24-25, 2017



Chef Lee Masten

*Executive Chef of
The Spa at Norwich Inn*

March 26-27, 2017

June 25-26, 2017

September 24-25, 2017

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